■ LIFESTYLE / C3
Enrico Labayen's 'Dalagang Bukid' at the CCP

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MRT3 buyout seen costing gov't $600M

■ NEWS / A2
Gonzales not off the hook, says Joker

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1
Sweet Suzie's swan song

Rights, benefits sought for 1.5M housemaids

By Jamie Alarcon, *PDI Research* and Volt Contreras

BONGGA KA, 'DAY.

Housekeepers, laundresses, nannies and other domestic workers are coming out of the woodwork and into their own. They are even holding a conference on Sept. 21 to 23 at the

RIGHTS/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Prayer, humor make Pinoy resilient, says study

By Cynthia D. Balana

HAIL MARYS AND jokes—not necessarily in that order of importance—are the Filipino's secret weapons for survival.

Despite the socioeco-

PRAYER/ A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, September 19, 2005 ★★ 72 pages / 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 283 P18 website: www.inq7.net

US envoy reckoned coup lacked support

June 2 report said 2 military groups out to oust GMA

By Norman Bordadora

THE US EMBASSY TOLD WASHington in June that two groups in the Philippine military had planned to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo even before the worst crisis of her presidency erupted but indicated the plots would not succeed, a report released yesterday to the INQUIRER said.

US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, in a June 2 report, said "several crucial factors ... should lead plotters to conclude a coup is premature." He added that "in addition to a lack of pretext, civilian support may be in doubt."

The coup plots were hatched by "a substantial number" of junior officers and generals, working separately, said the US Embassy report—the second purportedly from Mussomeli released in two days to the INQUIRER by a source who requested anonymity.

A report by Mussomeli dated April 15, 2005, made available on Saturday, said Ms Arroyo's public support had waned and the embassy had been told that elements in the Armed Forces were moving to force her to resign.

US Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop declined to comment on the purported Mussomeli report in June as well the April 15 document.

Both reports appeared to be among documents allegedly stolen from files of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation by FBI analyst Leandro Aragoncillo, a Filipino-American.

US ENVOY/ A5

THE RETURN of President Macapagal-Arroyo from a successful UN trip early Sunday morning provides an occasion for a demonstrator at the University of the Philippines to protest her administration's hiring of foreign consultants on proposed Charter change. *(See related story on Page A2.)* LYN RILLON

Mussomeli misread signs of unrest, says intel officer

By Luige A. del Puerto, TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon

UNITED STATES EMBASSY OFFIcials were told to reassess their report about a possible coup attempt against President Macapagal-Arroyo because the report was not backed up by events on the ground, a well-placed Filipino intelligence officer said yesterday.

The officer suggested the Philippine intelligence community knew about the US Embassy assessment earlier this year concerning restiveness in the Armed Forces.

While the intelligence officer appeared to play down the US Embassy report, retired Navy commodore and risk consultant analyst Rex Robles viewed it as a veiled warning to Ms Arroyo to institute reforms before soldiers intervened.

US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli said in a report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on April 15 that Ms Arroyo's public support had sunk and elements in the AFP were planning to move and force her into stepping down, according to a document obtained by the INQUIRER.

The Mussomeli report also referred to the extent of public disaffection with Philippine democracy, based on a survey by the Social Weather Stations.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officer said the police intelligence community told US officers in the country sometime in June or July to "reevaluate their assessment."

"They had based their assessment on the survey that said [Ms Arroyo's] rating had hit rock-bottom, and that it was ripe for the picking," the officer said.

"We told them to reevaluate and revalidate their assessment, because it [a coup plot] was not based on what was happening on the ground," the officer said.

"It's a shot across the bow," Robles said in a phone interview, referring to the Mussomeli assessment.

"They're pressuring GMA to make amends before the military is forced to act ... Move while you still have a modicum of control before the AFP is forced to act and intervene," said Robles, president of the security risk manage-

MUSSOMELI/ A5

GMA: I return with new energy in facing problems

By Christine O. Avendaño

SHE'S BACK HOME AND BACK TO the same old problems.

But this time, she feels energized.

President Macapagal-Arroyo returned home at dawn yesterday after attending the World Summit marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations.

The 58-year-old President did not hide her elation over what she noted was the successful outcome of her six-day trip.

Several hours later, the President, in her trademark Marian blue suit, appeared on government television.

"I have returned from my trip to the UN in New York filled with a new hope for our country and the world," she said.

Ms Arroyo said she was proud of the respect the Philippines received through her efforts in the United Nations, including her presiding over a UN Security Council meeting.

She described as "uplifting" her role as the first woman and first Asian leader to preside over the Security Council meeting and for being part of the approval of a UN resolution to combat terrorism.

"I am returning with a new energy in facing problems that need immediate attention," she said.

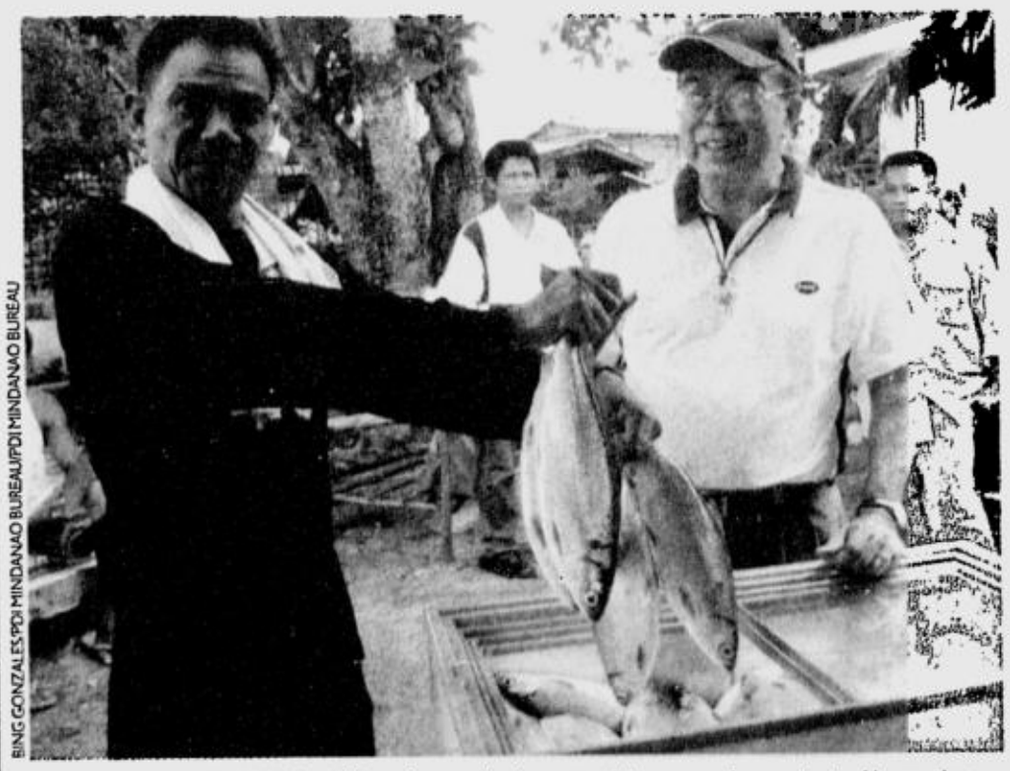
She said one of the priority items on her agenda was the approval of a budget that would create jobs and finance education programs and health care.

Ms Arroyo also vowed to continue government efforts to increase tax collections and to go

GMA/ A7

Samal isle: Making of a dream city

By Germelina A. Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau



BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

THE ISLAND GARDEN City of Samal reaps the bounty of the sea as demonstrated by worker Jun Sucat to Mayor Antalan as the isle seeks to develop itself into a world class eco-tourism site.

IT'S AN ISLAND CITY WITHOUT A single telephone land line.

But try submitting a document to City Hall for processing. You'll be pleasantly surprised that your transaction enters into the city's electronic document tracking system (e-DTS) that allows you to trace where it is at any moment of the day.

"We're making computerization a strategy for transparency," says Cleto Gales Jr., administrator of the Island Garden City of Samal, the group of islands in the Davao Gulf recently chosen by the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA) as among the country's "dream cities" of the future.

Although still classified as a fifth-class city of roughly 90,000 people, Samal Island is fast moving closer to what it wants to become in the next five to 10 years.

That means putting in place state-of-the-art urban amenities to become a world-class eco-tourism site while keeping intact the island's natural treasures and cultural heritage, according to Mayor Rogelio Antalan.

SAMAL/ A6

Archbishop happy 'jueteng' has stopped

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila

LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN ARCHbishop Oscar Cruz, a crusader against "jueteng," is "very pleased" that the illegal numbers game has been "by and large banished from the country."

"I'm happy that [President Macapagal-Arroyo] and the police were able to stop jueteng, but the question is, 'until when?'" Cruz told the INQUIRER yesterday in a telephone interview.

Last week, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who was appointed by President Arroyo as antijueteng czar, announced that organized jueteng operations in Luzon had been halted.

Hagedorn earlier set Sept. 15 as the deadline for stopping jueteng, which had become a P13-billion a year industry.

It was Cruz who directed public attention to jueteng operations when he exposed how the illegal numbers game had corrupted politicians.

While Cruz, national chair of Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, is pleased that jueteng has been stopped, he is unhappy with the lack of closure to the Senate inquiry into the numbers racket.

"Until now, the big jueteng operators are enjoying the money of the poor. I think these operators and their beneficiaries should be brought to justice," he said.

Cruz said it was hard to accept that "Jueteng-gate" had been forgotten, referring to allegations that Ms Arroyo had used money from the underground lottery to help ensure her victory in the 2004 elections.

The prelate paraded several witnesses who outlined during

ARCHBISHOP / A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The coastal waters throughout the archipelago will be slight to moderate.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/09/18/05

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Senate set to probe Gonzales

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

DESPITE THE RESCISSION OF THE CONTROversial contract he entered into with American lobby firm Venable LLP, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales is not yet off the hook.

"It doesn't matter if the Venable contract is scrapped. What is at issue is the fitness of Secretary Gonzales to continue being the national security director," administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

After drawing flak from all fronts, the beleaguered national security adviser finally caved in and announced the rescission of the Venable contract.

Venable was hired by the government to lobby for US funding for Philippine government projects, including Charter change.

Arroyo is convening this week the Senate committee on accountability of public officers and investigations to inquire into Gonzales' role in the agreement with Venable.

Arroyo said the blue ribbon committee, which he chairs, would focus on whether Gonzales is authorized to sign lobby agreements with foreign entities.

"The job description of the national security director does not give him the power to enter into lobbying agreements. His function is to provide technical assistance to the NSC and advise the President on national security matters," he said in a statement.

"Under what authority, therefore, did Secretary Gonzales enter into the Venable contract on behalf of the Philippine government?" Arroyo asked.

The maverick senator said that Gonzales could be a "danger" to national security if he overplayed his functions and overstepped boundaries.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he would file a resolution seeking a clear delineation of Gonzales' powers and functions.

"We find problematic his advice to the President to enter into a contract with Venable," he said, stressing that as national security adviser he has no business signing the contract since constitutional amendments do not fall within the purview of national security.

Gonzales said he called up representatives of the Baltimore-based law firm yesterday to inform them that the Philippine government no longer wished to retain its services.

It was Gonzales who signed the contract with Venable on July 25 on behalf of the Philippine government. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Debt-for-equity tagged an embarrassment

By DJ Yap

THE PHILIPPINES' DEBT-FOR-equity proposal is actually an embarrassment to the international community notwithstanding the plaudits it got from top United Nations officials and heads of state, according to the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

"It is an empty proposal. It will do nothing" to reduce the country's foreign obligations, said FDC president Ana Maria Nemenzo.

The scheme, first proposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia, aims to convert 50 percent of the debt-service receipts of lending institutions and multinational commercial banks into equity to be invested in antipoverty and development projects.

The debt-for-equity proposal was endorsed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

The FDC, however, said the endorsement was mere "diplomacy."

"In the diplomatic community, how could Kofi Annan not welcome" something that promises substantial debt relief, said FDC vice president Lidy Nacpil.

Other countries had, in fact proposed other more radical ways of debt reduction that had more potential, Nacpil said, adding it was unlikely that UN diplomats would reject debt proposals at the outset.

"It's embarrassing. (In his proposal sent to Annan, De Venecia was) claiming substantial debt relief. But in reality it does not [offer relief]," she said.

At a press conference yesterday in Quezon City, the FDC said the conversion of foreign debt to equity would not reduce the country's debt—it would merely change the form.

Nacpil said that under De Venecia's proposal, the Philippines would continue paying its debts to creditors who would "plow back" half of the payments in investments in the country.

"Investment is not a donation... If we don't pay our debts, creditors will not invest" she said.

Since De Venecia clearly stated in his proposal that he was not asking for debt cancellation, forgiveness or even discounts, "what breathing spell and fiscal space is (he) talking about?" the group asked.

"The most the proposal can actually bring about, that is, if creditors will agree, is that part of the interest we pay them they will invest in so-called antipoverty and development projects," the FDC said.

But it added: "This is not even necessarily positive—as there are evidences and experiences to show that foreign and private investments in services had led to increases in the cost and price of these services."

The debt swap would "inevitably open up the field of social services, such as mass housing, health care, education, irrigation, food production and postharvest facilities, the government's sole responsibilities to its people, to foreign business interests," the FDC said.

No conflict in VAT statements—Bunye

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michelle V. Remo

THEY'RE RECONCILABLE.

Thus declared Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye after he was asked to explain the "conflicting statements" that President Macapagal-Arroyo gave to investors and businessmen in New York and in the press statement issued by Malacañang on the implementation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law.

Bunye did not elaborate but referred all VAT queries to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves. Teves, however, was still reportedly in the US, where he had accompanied the President.

On Friday, Ms Arroyo told American businessmen in New York that she was amenable to deferring the imposition of the 10 percent VAT on oil and electricity provided the move was initiated by Congress and not by the executive branch.

Separate resolutions have been filed in the Senate and House by Sen. Manuel A. Roxas II and Rep. Joey Salceda, respectively, to delay the VAT on oil and power.

"If the resolutions don't pass, then we will proceed with carrying out with the reforms and if the resolutions are passed, we will respect Congress' advice to us... We respect their wisdom," the President had told a forum of businessmen in New York.

Apparently to assuage the fears of the country's creditors, Malacañang later issued a statement saying the President remained firm in her position to have the VAT law implemented in its entirety.

In her statement, the President warned Congress about the implications to the country of exempting oil and power from VAT in the international financial markets.

Also not wanting the President to appear to be dictating to Congress, a co-equal branch of government, Malacañang said it "realized that it is the prerogative of Congress to decide on these exemptions, and we will implement the law accordingly."

Like the President, it said, the government's economic team also wanted the VAT law implemented in full, that is, to cover oil and electricity as soon the Supreme Court lifted the temporary restraining order on the law's implementation.

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Weather updates now just a phone call away

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEED A RAIN CHECK? DIAL 433-ULAN.

Yes, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration provides a weather forecast over the phone every day for free.

The service has caught fire. More than 1,000 phone calls barrage the weather bureau's hotline daily during the typhoon season seeking details about what it's going to look like out there.

Pagasa weather forecast chief Herman Ngohayon said the agency's dial-a-forecast was a popular indispensable service in a country which counts at least 19 typhoons a year.

"Pagasa really spends for this service to reach more of the public because many concerned agencies and individuals cannot always get through our line," Ngohayon said.

The 433-ULAN hotline can take 30 calls simultaneously.

Callers can get different kinds of weather advisories in English and Tagalog. They can press 1 for the national forecast, 2 for shipping information, 3 for a forecast of selected Asian cities and 4 for special typhoon updates.

During the continuous downpour that flooded parts of Metro Manila last week, Pagasa received hundreds of inquiries, where it only got 20 to 30 calls when the sun is shining.

The reports are recorded by eight Pagasa-trained plotters and broadcasters working three shifts everyday to update the advisory.

"We picked those who can explain (the weather) well and, of course, they must have good voices to be qualified," Ngohayon said.

The national forecast includes the usual information on temperatures, weather disturbances, the condition of coastal waters and the tides.

The shipping bulletin gives data specially useful to mariners, focusing on wind strength and direction and affected latitude.

The selected cities forecast gives a brief bulletin on the kind of weather and temperature to expect in cities all over the Philippines and Asia.

A check with 433-ULAN yesterday reported the existence of an intertropical convergence zone in southern Luzon and Western Visayas.

LPG prices hiked by 50¢

FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS month, oil firms Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. jacked up their cooking gas prices by 50 centavos per kilogram over the weekend.

Caltex was the first to implement the price hike, increasing the price of its Caltex liquefied petroleum gas at 6 p.m. Saturday. Prices of Petron's Gasul, Shell's Shellane and Total's TotalGaz rose six hours later at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

The oil firms cited the significant rise in the international contract price of LPG this month as the reason for the successive price increases.

The international contract price of LPG jumped $36 to $440.20 per metric ton (MT) this month from only $404.20 per MT in August and $400.10 per MT in July.

Petron officials said that while the rise in LPG contract prices should have resulted in a P2 per kilo increase in local prices, the actual price hike implemented this time was only 50 centavos a kilo.

Oil firms had so far jacked up LPG prices by P1.50 per kilogram this month, or 50 centavos per kilogram over the first three weekends.

Since the start of the year, cooking gas prices have risen six times by a total of P3.65 per kilogram.

LPG now retails at between P383.50 and P445.50 per 11-kilo cylinder. *Abigail L. Ho*

RP's top cops join Interpol meet on crime

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE COUNTRY'S TOP COPS WERE SET TO leave for Berlin, Germany, last night to attend the 74th Interpol General Assembly which starts today.

"High on the agenda of the assembly is... combating international crime, including terrorism, drugs, human trafficking and financial crime," said Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Interpol (International Police) holds an annual meeting to update member-countries on the latest in crime fighting and to increase cooperation among them.

This year's meeting will also discuss the police response to the tsunami disaster that hit Asia last year.

Bataoil said member-countries would "be updated on the expansion of Interpol's databases, such as those on DNA and child (pornography) on the Internet."

Although the Philippines still does not have laws against Internet crimes, local police have been monitoring and raiding cybersex dens. Police officials, however, have lamented their failure to prosecute those arrested because of the lack of laws against such crimes.

Aside from PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao and five other senior police officers, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and presidential adviser on police affairs Orlando Macaspac were scheduled to fly to Berlin.

Even with the top police officials out of the country, the PNP and the military yesterday downgraded their alert status to normal following the return of President Macapagal-Arroyo from abroad on Sunday.

The military and the 115,000-strong national police force were placed on full alert when Ms Arroyo left for New York on Sept. 12 to address the General Assembly and preside over the World Leaders Summit and a Security Council meeting.

A nationwide transport strike last week also prompted the alert.

Bataoil said the police were now on "normal alert."

"Of course it does not mean the police are relaxed. We are constantly guarding (our streets) against criminal elements," he said.

"We're on white alert now," said Capt. Ramon Zagala, spokesperson of the Armed Forces National Capital Region Command.

"As a matter of SOP (standard operating procedure), the AFP (was placed) under red alert status when the President left. We were on white alert since her arrival."

240,000 health workers said to face layoffs

By Christian V. Esguerra

SOME 240,000 GOVERNMENT HEALTH workers are set to be laid off notwithstanding the unabated exodus of doctors and nurses to other countries and the slash in the budget of already cash-strapped state hospitals that has adversely affected the delivery of health sevices.

The Health Alliance for Democracy (HEAD), a national organization of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, said the Department of Health is set to implement Executive Order No. 366 which would streamline the bureaucracy to save money.

Dr. Gene Nisperos, HEAD secretary general, said the layoffs would affect key government hospitals which already lack medical personnel as a result of budget problems.

The Philippine Orthopedic Center, for instance, should have 1,100 employees but is actually short by 99 people, he said.

The National Center for Mental Health and the San Lazaro Hospital, the government's primary treatment facility for victims of rabies, also lack medical personnel, he said.

The NCMH has only 1,570 employees while San Lazaro has 826 even if they should have 1,870 and 890 workers, respectively.

Another vital government hospital, the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in Manila, has a bed capacity of only 450 but admits around 600 patients daily, excluding 1,400 out patient cases.

"What price is exacted from health personnel who are expected to provide quality health care?" Nisperos asked.

The Alliance of Health Workers on Friday predicted that the country's health care system would collapse in two to three years if doctors and nurses continued to leave for higher paying jobs abroad.

From 2000 to 2003 alone, the group said the country lost 51,850 nurses.

Some 5,000 registered doctors also left in the last four years while around 4,000 are now taking up nursing, according to the group.

Nisperos said President Macapagal-Arroyo was not doing enough to address the serious problems besetting the health care system.

"She has remained blind to the deteriorating state of public hospitals and remained deaf to the pleas of health workers for just wages and better working conditions," he said.

Nisperos' group was dismayed after the Arroyo administration cut the budget of the Tondo Medical Center last year to only P20 million a month compared to nearly P28 million monthly in 2002.

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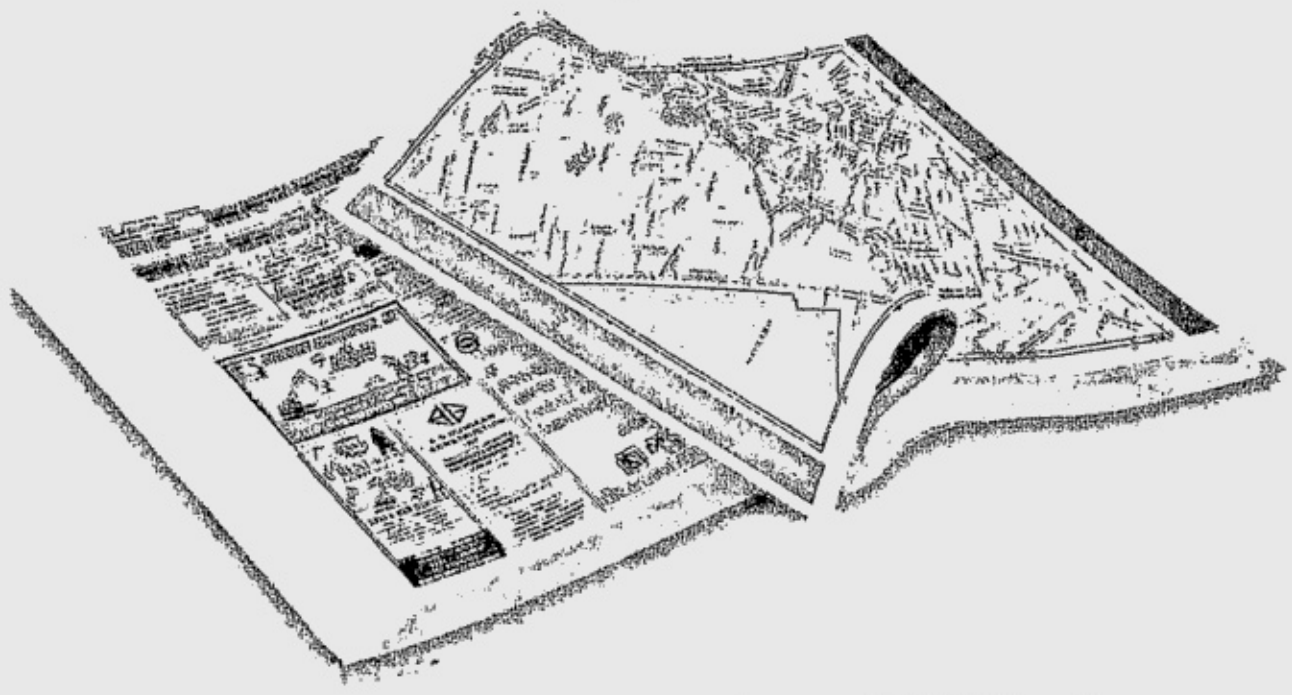

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FAMILY and friends pay their last respects to Haydee Yorac at the Santuario de San Antonio yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

'With Yorac gone, what'll happen to SMC shares?'

By TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

WITH HER PASSING, DID HAYDEE Yorac's dream of recovering the government's multibillion-peso stake in San Miguel Corp. die with her?

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo believes so.

"Now with her passing, I don't think the (Presidential Commission on Good Government) under its new leadership would have the guts, courage and knowhow to pursue that," Arroyo told a news conference on Friday.

He recalled how Yorac had relentlessly pursued the recovery of the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

Yorac had headed the PCGG for over three years until poor health forced her to resign last April. Rumors were rife the Palace had pressured her into quitting, but the feisty lawyer denied this, saying, "No one can make me (quit)."

"The passing of Haydee Yorac would, I think, mean the passing of the drive of the government to recover the San Miguel shares," Arroyo said. "That was Haydee's dream. She resigned because she was sick but I think she had that in mind ... So goodbye 47 percent."

The percentage refers to the number of SMC shares sequestered by the PCGG shortly after the 1986 Edsa I uprising on grounds they were illegally acquired by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a crony of Marcos, using funds from a levy imposed on coconut farmers during the martial law years.

The shares consist of a 20 percent block which Cojuangco claimed he acquired with his own money and another block of 27 percent which he conceded were acquired with the coco levy funds. While both blocks continue to be sequestered, the Supreme Court has allowed Cojuangco to vote the 20 percent, with PCGG retaining voting power over the other block.

The Sandiganbayan antigraft court rejected in late December Cojuangco's bid to regain control of the coco levy shares. The case has gone on to the Supreme Court.

"Now that she's gone, what will the PCGG do? Allow these claims to slip away from the government?" Arroyo said.

In answer, the PCGG yesterday assured the public the fight to recover the Marcos wealth was still on.

PCGG commissioner and officer in charge Nicasio Conti said the agency would work harder to recover the money.

"The untimely demise of former chair Haydee Yorac will only embolden the commission to work harder consistent with its mandate," Conti said.

He said the PCGG, presently chaired by lawyer Camilo Sabio, was still committed to protecting the government's interest in sequestered corporations.

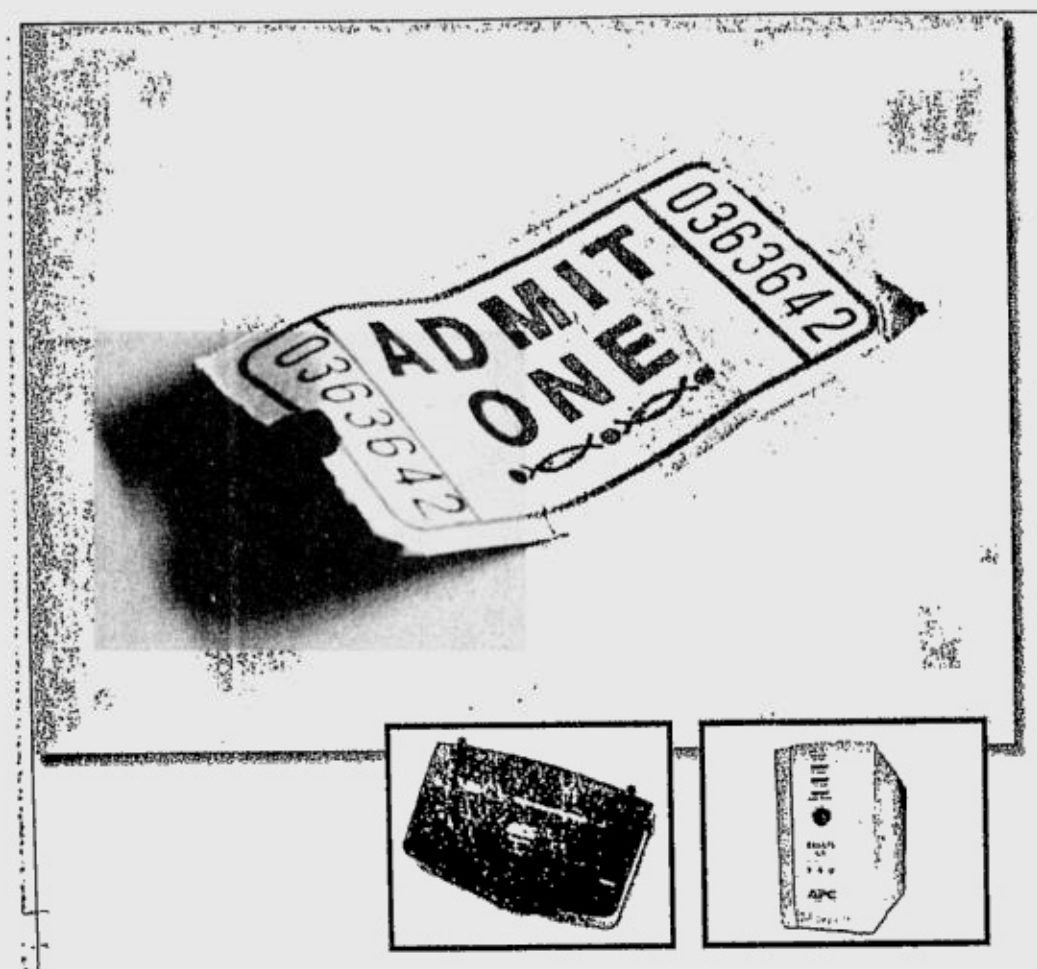
"The PCGG has always been committed to conserve and protect government interests not only in San Miguel Corp. but in all other sequestered and surrendered corporations as we recover ill-gotten wealth for the benefit of the people."

Yorac succumbed to pneumonic complications from ovarian cancer in a Chicago hospital last week. Evelyn Yorac-Zamora said her sister's major organs like her lungs and kidneys had failed. She was 64.

Yorac is survived by four sisters, two of whom live in Canada and two in Chicago, and a brother who lives in the Philippines.

Her remains arrived yesterday from the US and were taken to the Santuario de San Antonio Church in Forbes Park, Makati City, for the wake. Her body was in a dark brown casket topped by a metal crucifix.

Zamora said her sister's body would lie at the Santuario for three days. On Wednesday at 2 p.m., necrological services will be held at the UP College of Law, where she taught for several years. On Thursday at 9 a.m., Yorac will be buried beside her father Jose at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.



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Lawyers pick new officers

MARTINEZ

LAWYER HECTOR A. Martinez, a partner at the Platon Martinez Flores San Pedro & Leaño Law Offices, was recently elected president of the Philippine Bar Association for 2005-06. The other new officers of the association are Jose Perpetuo M. Lotilla, first vice president; Victor Lazatin, second vice president; Jose Feria Jr., third vice president; Manuel Barcelona III, treasurer, and Vida Panganiban-Alindonga, secretary.

Martinez graduated salutatorian and cum laude from the University of the Philippines College of Law. He obtained his masters in law degree from the Harvard Law School in Massachusetts. He topped the Philippine bar in 1964.

Organized in 1891 as the Colegio de Abogados de Filipinas, the Philippine Bar Association is the oldest voluntary organization of lawyers in the country. It counts over 1,000 members nationwide representing a cross-section of Filipino law practitioners.

Its Council of Advisers is composed of Manuel A. Barcelona Jr., Avelino J. Cruz, Ruben O. Fruto, Carlos Platon, Antonio R. Velicaria and Arsenio B. Yulo Jr.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 19, 2005
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezra 1:1-6
Gospel: Luke 8:16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one, after lighting a lamp covers it with a bowl or puts it under the bed; rather he puts it on a lampstand so that people coming in may see the light. In the same way, there is nothing hidden that shall not be uncovered; nothing kept secret that shall not be known clearly. Now, take care how well you listen, for whoever produces will be given more, but from those who do not produce, even what they seem to have will be taken away from them."

Commentary

JESUS notes that no one lights a lamp and covers it up. No, it's put on a stand so that the light can penetrate and spread throughout the entire space it is in. It can be everything from a lighthouse to a candle in a cave or prison cell. It must expand to fill the emptiness of the darkness around it. This is what we are to be in the world, as Jesus was in his time and place. All will be revealed, even if now, much lies covered. We are to listen to the Word with care and obey, and produce. And our judgment depends on it. Our lives are not our own. From the moment of our baptisms we were told: you live now, no longer for yourself alone, but now you live hidden with Christ in God." Are we lamps burning bright, wicks steady in oil, lighthouses, even just oil lamps or long-lasting bulbs? Do we cut through the darkness and shadows of evil and lies to reveal the light of Christ?

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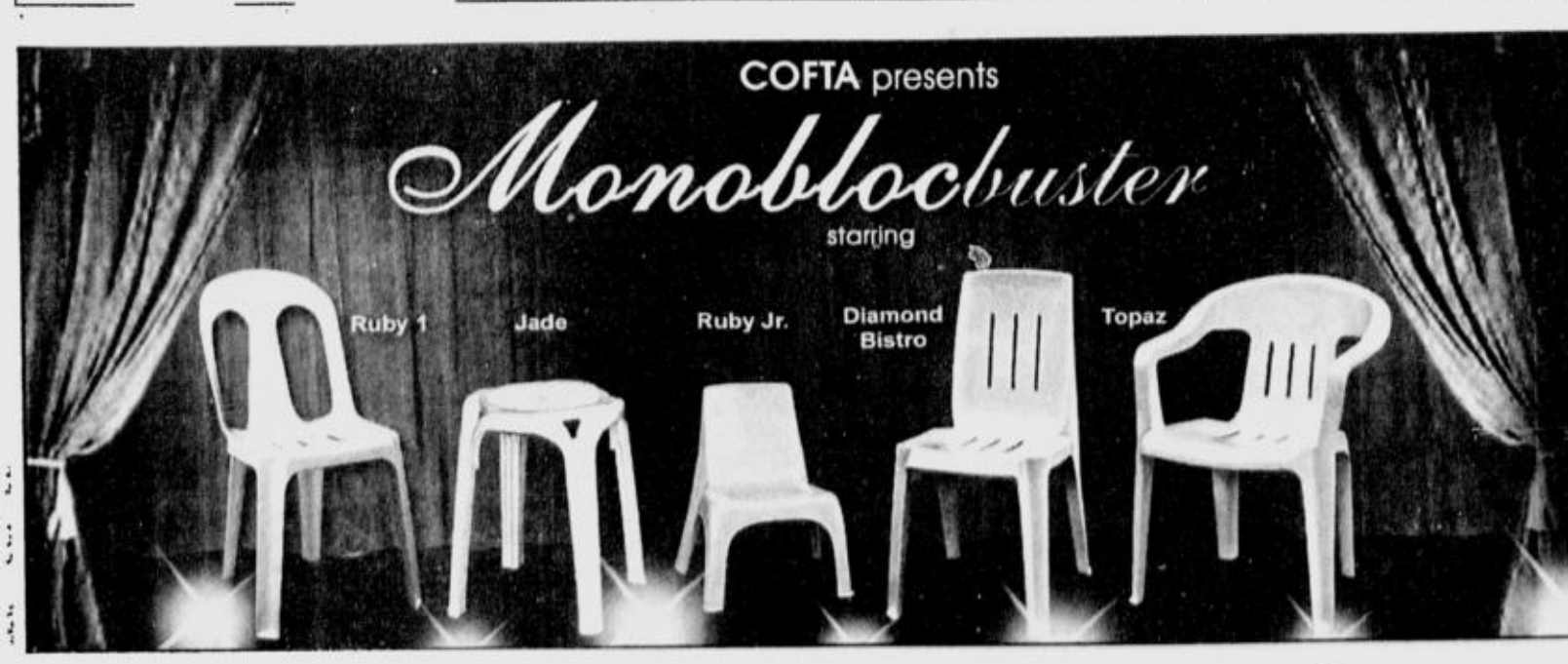

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US envoy reckoned coup lacked support

From page A1

The files were said to have been passed on to former Philippine National Police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, who had fled to America to escape murder charges in the Philippines. The two are facing espionage charges in a US court.

The pilfered documents were alleged to have been sent subsequently to opposition politicians in Manila.

The June 2 report said Ms Arroyo had "failed to meet expectations" and had lost public support. It mentioned a determined plan to reverse the results of the 2004 presidential election and a plot involving an "opposition-led core-committee of leaders."

"Information from the military and civilian contacts describes two separate military factions plotting to remove Arroyo: A radical group of junior officers and a more cautious group of flag officers," said the three-page report.

Young officers

"The younger officers reportedly had planned to oust Arroyo and support an opposition-led core-committee of leaders. The exact date for action may shift as the two groups keep an eye on the political situation," the June report said.

"But the generals have indicated that they will be compelled to act before the reassignments and/or retirements are announced in July 2005," it added.

The report was drafted a few days before the "Hello Garci" conversations between Ms Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were exposed on June 6. The revelations, which allegedly pointed to election fraud, triggered widespread calls for the resignation of the President.

The June report mentioned an "opposition-led core-committee of leaders," even as the idea of a transition council had not yet been publicized until the House inquiry into the Garcillano wiretap and the protests that followed it.

"Plans by opposition groups would begin with civilian demonstrations or strikes that would provoke an overreaction from (Ms) Arroyo, providing a pretext for military action," the report said.

"According to sensitive reporting, (former President Joseph) Estrada's determination to reverse the results of last year's presidential elections, for instance, might trigger such a confrontation," it added.

Prior to the release of the recordings, the administration had already been embarrassed by claims in a Senate hearing that Ms Arroyo's family had received illegal gambling payoffs.

Mussomeli's report mentioned "potential triggers" for military action against Ms Arroyo but added "several crucial factors ... (that) should lead plotters to conclude a coup is premature."

The report showed the US Embassy expected a widespread transport and labor strike in June, particularly on June 12, that would have led Ms Arroyo to declare a state of emergency. The demonstrations could have been a trigger, it said.

Division in labor groups

"Last month, the transport group and labor union conducted a national strike but divisions and lack of support among union leaders have put on the back burner plans for a general strike that might provoke Ms Arroyo into calling a 'state of emergency'," the June report said.

Another supposed trigger was the mid-year personnel movement in the Armed Forces.

"Every year at this time (referring to July 2005), officers are promoted, reassigned or retired. Senior anti-Arroyo officers may feel compelled to act before they are moved to other positions or retired," the report added.

"Several crucial factors, however, should lead plotters to conclude a coup is premature," the report said.

"No political cover: In addition to the problem of a lack of pretext, civilian support may be in doubt," it said. The report said that while the two military groups were talking to each other, "sensitive reporting indicates civilian anti-Arroyo groups, including the Church, business groups and labor, have backed away from dissident military efforts to involve them in the plot."

"(Because) they fear its failure, which could make Ms Arroyo stronger, or their own marginalization, if the military takes over," the report added.

There was also "no guarantee of success."

"Key units are currently under the command of Arroyo loyalists, and Arroyo's intelligence services are generally believed to have been monitoring individuals suspected of opposing her," the report said.

"In view of the substantial number of plotters—it is a virtual certainty that Arroyo is aware of the plotting," it added.

The report also mentioned the absence of a "post-Arroyo government plan."

"According to our source, the opposition has not indicated as to what type of transition government will be installed after Ms Arroyo is removed, or who would lead it," the report said.

"A civilian government, which would call for new elections within a year, has some support among most observers. However, several diplomats maintained that they are worried that radical military elements might envision a longer stay, if given support to oust Arroyo," it ended. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

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Erap: So what's new?

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA said yesterday he agreed with the analysis of former US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli about the Philippine situation but noted the latter's report seemed to have been culled from analyses made by survey outfits.

"They are saying the same thing. It appears that one copied from another. So what is new?" Estrada said in a statement.

Estrada said he had no copy of the Mussomeli paper, which also said that the ousted President seemed to have benefited "substantially" from Ms Arroyo's waning popularity.

Administration legislators saw the Mussomeli report as the type of document opposition members would be interested in to promote the destabilization of Ms Arroyo.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, vice chair of the House committee on national defense, said the report could have been one of the files supposedly stolen from FBI computers and given to personalities involved in destabilization efforts.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella of Lakas said: "Events have proven the Mussomeli report wrong." *Reports from Nelson F. Flores and Norman Bordadora*

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Mussomeli misread signs of unrest, says intel officer

From page A1

ment consultancy RCR.

Robles, a leader of a dissident group which rose against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, said the Mussomeli report could also have been directed at restive soldiers.

"It's a double-edged warning. It's also warning elements in the military if they're planning violent means, they [US authorities] will announce their plans," Robles said.

Biazon questions report

Robles theorized that the US government leaked the Mussomeli report, in the same way that the Federal Bureau of Investigation publicized the arrest of its Filipino-American analyst and of former police officer Michael Ray Aquino for espionage, as a cover to criticize the administration.

"This is an excuse to discuss the faults of Gloria by publishing unflattering reports about her ... They can always say they can't stop this because there's an ongoing investigation," he said.

"This will open the floodgates of critical assessment of Gloria."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief of staff, said the accuracy of the Mussomeli report was questionable.

"Yes, there were rumors of agitation ... The junior officers were questioning a lot of things. But a coup, I never heard of it," Biazon stressed in an interview. "So this poses a question of accuracy on the information gathered by Mussomeli."

Arroyo's 'yes' men

Biazon laughed off the report's reference to hard-core supporters whom Ms Arroyo could call on in case of a coup attempt.

"That's ridiculous. I don't think any group will be willing to fight for GMA. Unless you are referring to the 'yes' lawmakers," he chuckled, referring to the congressmen who recently quashed the impeachment cases against the President.

A senior official at the Department of Foreign Affairs said conducting analyses of the political and economic situation in host countries was part of the responsibilities of embassies and consulates.

"Just imagine if their government reads something about the Philippines in the newspapers and the US Embassy had not given them any report at all. That means they are not doing their job," DFA Assistant Secretary for American Affairs Ariel Abadilla told the INQUIRER.

"In the same manner, we also make analyses of the political and economic situation in our host countries."

Abadilla said such analyses helped the home government to "plan accordingly" in case there was "a change of government or a need to evacuate nationals, like what happened in Iraq."

"These analyses contain a blow-by-blow account of the situation in the country. That's normal for embassies to do," he said.

Embassy silence

The US Embassy, for the second day, maintained its silence on the INQUIRER report.

"As of this moment, we don't have any comment. If that changes, I'll call you," US Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop said.

Asked why the embassy would not comment, Lussenhop replied: "I don't need to explain that."

Transcripts of Mussomeli's television interviews in June and July, the darkest months of the Arroyo administration, were still posted on the US Embassy website, http://manila.usembassy.gov.

Three scenarios

Interviewed on July 8 over GMA 7, Mussomeli had said his government would not support unconstitutional means to oust Ms Arroyo.

"We see at least three different scenarios of that sort. A military coup of some sort, the imposition of martial law by the government, or some sort of people power movement," Mussomeli said.

"I think all three of those would be disruptive to the long-term interests of the Philippines and so we would oppose them, yes."

Military officers could not be reached for comment on the Mussomeli report.

Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual turned off his mobile phone. Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado, civil relations group chief, just let his phone ring and refused to pick up the call.

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Samal isle: Making of a dream city

From page A1

The city is home to the Sama tribe, which used to rule in Malibasa (old name for Peñaplata, also a Sama word for "honorable"). The Sama are a people whose language has no word for war, at least according to accounts of anthropologists.

Samal Island was one of the country's nine best performing cities last year in a pilot program in ISA's public governance system (PGS), a performance measurement tool that allows the local government to determine how far it's moving toward its goal.

People can reach the island by a 15-minute boat ride, or an hour's ride by bus brought by ferry from Davao City.

An existing bridge by the sea, or a roll-on, roll-off ferry system, links Davao City's wharf in Sasa to Samal island's coastal town of Babac where the road leads to Barangay Peñaplata, the seat of the city government.

Idyllic

On the way to Peñaplata, one can catch a glimpse of a cow grazing beside a coconut-lined roadside and of a couple of beach front public parks so deserted they are ideal places for contemplation.

Although the island is idyllic, it is linked to the worldwide web.

After failing to get the support of major telephone companies to put up land lines on the island, the city decided to hook up to a VSAT (very small aperture terminal) satellite that allows it easy access to the Internet, currently its fastest link to the world outside.

Its website, already partly interactive, was one of the first 14 local government units officially registered under the gov.ph domain in 2002.

Now, City Hall has at least 89 workstations connected through a local area network (LAN).

Aside from e-DTS, the city government is coming up with an electronic legislative tracking system (e-LTS), which will allow people to monitor a piece of legislation from the filing to its passage into law.

To encourage participation, the city plans to put up a couple of computer units that the people can use any time so they can share their views and offer suggestions on how the city should be run.

For Antalan, a former priest and banker, computerization not only allows the city to save on cost, but also curbs corruption and keeps city authorities updated on the city's finances.

Surplus income

While the national government tries to fight a widening fiscal deficit each year, the island has posted an average yearly income surplus of P7 million to P10 million since it became a city seven years ago, according to Gales.

At present, the city is working to fully develop its paperless electronic procurement system (e-ProcSys).

Shortly after he assumed office, Antalan found out how hard it was to look into the city's finances using the manual system of accounting.

The city had to wait for weeks before officials could get the information they wanted. By the time they get the financial report, it no longer reflects the city's real financial condition.

"The old, manual method was prone to error and irregularities," says Gales, who like the mayor, used to be a banker. "We need to have the right grounding for the decisions we make, hence, the need for real-time information on the status of our finances."

Antalan wants Samal to be a place where people can enjoy urban living in an unspoiled rural setting.

Dugong habitat

The city, which covers nine islands and islets, has perhaps one of the richest biodiversity in this part of Asia. Of the 73 kinds of corals found in the Philippines, 53 are in Samal, according to a 2000 study by the UP-based Hayuma Foundation. Besides, the island's seawaters host 250 species of aquarium fish and nine of the 13 sea grass species found in the country.

With the islands of Talikud, Samal and Kaputian making up the largest of its 30-hectare area, the garden city covers 118 km of coastline of fine, white sand.

Waterfalls, springs and watershed areas dot its grassy interior. Limestone ravines, hills and over 70 caves are ideal for adventure tourism. Its coral gardens are habitat for the endangered dugong, pawikan and hammerheads.

Antalan says the city has to guard and protect its natural and cultural treasures, otherwise, it does not deserve its name.

Twice or thrice, the city has turned down attempts by big corporations to put up a large-scale limestone extraction and resort development projects on the island.

"That's not the kind of development we want," says Gales.

The proposed limestone extraction project would have propped up the city coffers, still 80-percent dependent on the Internal Revenue Allotment funds, but would threaten the environment and the communities in the long run, according to Gales.

Sustainable urbanization

Instead, the city is focusing on the rehabilitation of its remaining mangrove forests and its disappearing sandbars. "Sustainable urbanization," Gales says, "is a term deemed 'contradictory' and 'ambitious' for those who are used to the old concept of development, but other cities outside the country have been successful."

Among those that inspired them, he says, are some Canadian cities, where it is not surprising to find forests less than a kilometer away. So are Japanese cities outside of Tokyo, according to the city administrator.

The island has inked an exchange tourism program with Canada's city of Ladysmith for the community-based tourism development and marketing of its Haguimit Falls.

Under this concept, the entire community gets involved in the five aspects of tourism: from providing tourists the necessary transportation to get to the place, to getting them involved in preparing what to experience, where to stay, where to eat and what to bring home from the place.

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Prayer, humor make Pinoy resilient, says study

From page A1

nomic difficulties and the advent of globalization, the Filipino remains stable because of "a very healthy sense of humor" and prayer, according to a study released by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The study, "The Filipino Family: Indicators of Family Well-Being," was conducted by the Family Life Institute (FLI), a nongovernment organization and member of the National Committee on the Filipino Family (NCFF) in celebration of Family Week from Sept. 19 to 25.

Lina Laigo, executive director of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and NCFF member, said the study showed that the Filipino family had almost perfected the skill of coping with crisis.

She said the Filipino got its strength from the support of family members and the community.

The study also revealed that fathers had taken a more active role in housework and family management because more mothers were working outside the home.

On parenting, mothers were the main disciplinarians while fathers were deferred to for more serious concerns. Parents still resorted to corporal punishment and children accepted this as part of discipline, the study said.

Moreover, children who participated in the focus group discussion said they considered a verbal scolding more harsh than actual physical punishment. They also expressed a need for their parents' guidance, for their parents to be more kind and understanding, and to spend more time with them.

The study was conducted to establish a set of indicators on family well-being that could be used to track family development over time. It employed a focus group discussion of 137 parents and 57 children, surveys of 132 children, interviews of Muslim couples and imam, and a review of related literature.

Among the indicators of well-being identified were family stability, parenting effectiveness, social responsibility and rights perspective.

Family well-being was defined in the study as the overall condition of physical and psychological health of the family.

Acting Social Welfare and Development Secretary Liwayway Pablo said some of the problems facing the family today were poverty, solo parenthood, family violence, drugs and materialism.

"I believe in the resiliency of the Filipino family, and one of the reasons we remain the happiest people in the world is because we are assured of the support of the family," Pablo said.

She said globalization had made it easy for anyone to access resources and economic opportunities. It had also changed traditional family systems and attitudes.

Likewise, the stability of the family was also being threatened by the law and order problem, media influence and information technology which had weakened traditional bonds.

To address the situation, Pablo said the DSWD had been implementing various programs and services for the family.

In 2004 alone, she said, a total of 253,674 families had been assisted by the DSWD through its programs and projects, namely, the national family violence prevention program, comprehensive psycho-social services for solo parents and their children, family drug abuse prevention program and the community-based program for the rehabilitation of domestic violence perpetrators.

This year, Family Week focuses on the theme, "Karangalan ng Bayan, Pamilya ang Pagmumulan."

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, accompanied by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, gets a warm welcome from supporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. ROGER MARGALLO

GMA: I return with new energy in facing problems

From page A1

after tax cheats and corruption in the system.

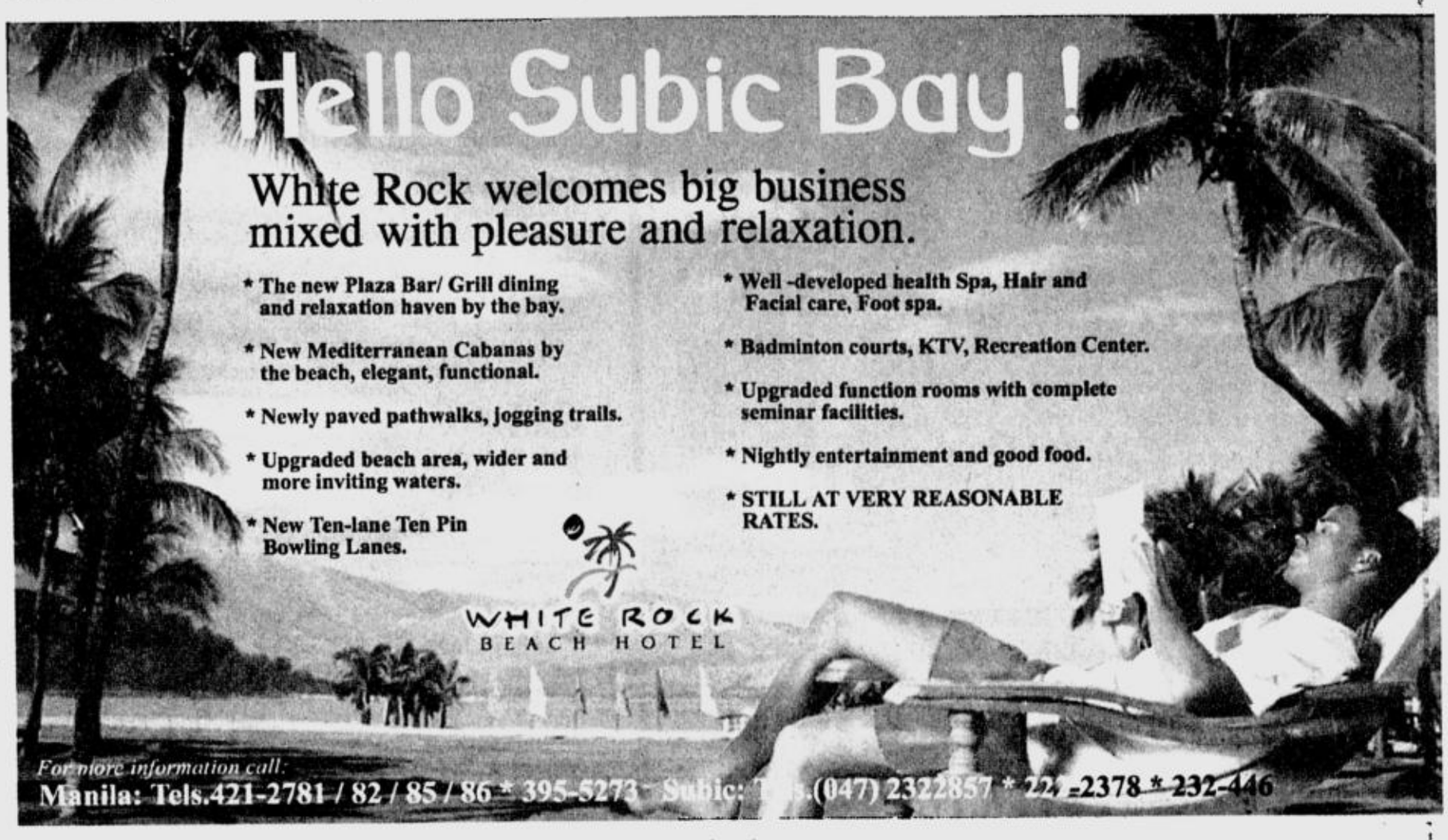
Protection of the poor from high prices of basic commodities was also another priority, she said.

During the TV program, Ms Arroyo took up with Trade Secretary Peter Favila how his department was monitoring the prices of goods.

Favila said that 50 teams, composed of government employees and volunteers, had been fielded in private and public markets in Metro Manila.

Asked by the President whether he had received complaints from consumers, Favila said several people had sent him text messages after he gave out his telephone number.

These included not only complaints but also requests for "pasa load" and a textmate, Favila said. This drew laughter from Ms Arroyo.



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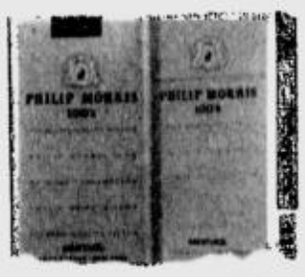

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iran defies West over nuclear program

UNITED NATIONS—IRAN clashed head-on with the West at the United Nations on Saturday as a defiant President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad proclaimed his country's determination to press ahead with making nuclear fuel.

In an unyielding speech to the General Assembly seeking to turn the tables on Western powers that suspect Tehran of working to develop a bomb, Ahmadinejad accused the United States of violating global nuclear treaties.

He offered other countries a partnership in Iran's uranium enrichment program and sought to broaden stalled talks with three major European Union nations on Tehran's nuclear ambitions to include countries such as South Africa.

But he said Iran would not accept "nuclear apartheid" that permitted some countries to enrich fuel, but not others.

"We're not going to cave in to the excessive demands of certain powers," Ahmadinejad said at a news conference when asked if Iran would halt sensitive activities such uranium ore conversion—a precursor to making enriched fuel.

US and EU officials said the speech indicated no willingness to change course. French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said the option of reporting Iran to the UN Security Council "remains on the agenda."

A British Foreign Office spokesperson said: "This was an unhelpful speech on which we will now want to consult our partners on the International Atomic Energy Agency board of governors." Germany is the other partner in the so-called EU3.

The eagerly awaited speech came two days before a critical meeting of the board of the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, starting on Monday in Vienna.

A solitary note-taker sat in the US section while Ahmadinejad spoke. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was in the chamber representing the European Union.

"It's a very aggressive speech which would seem to cross the EU3 red line, especially in one very important regard with respect to enrichment," said a senior state department official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

Ahmadinejad insisted the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT, gave every signatory the right to produce nuclear fuel, an interpretation disputed by the West.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told the assembly earlier that Iran's nuclear program was a real threat to global security and the Security Council must deal with it unless Iran ended sensitive activities and resumed talks with the EU.

"Iran should return to negotiations with the EU3 and abandon forever its plans for a nuclear weapons capability," she said. But she left the door ajar to giving Iran more time to return to negotiations.

US and EU officials planned to meet in New York on Sunday to decide what to do next. *Reuters*

ALOHA FESTIVAL Rabea Ohl (left) of Germany and Jayne Micelroy of Ireland wear the traditional Hawaiian floral headpiece or "Haku" at the Aloha Festival floral parade in Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 17. The festival has been celebrating Hawaii's heritage spanning six islands with parades, street parties, hula and concerts for over 50 years. REUTERS

Sri Lanka won't lower age of consent for girls to 13

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—SRI Lanka's government has reversed a decision to lower the age of consensual sex for girls from 16 to 13 following widespread criticism, reports said Sunday.

Government spokesperson Nimal Siripala de Silva, who is also the minister of health, told a weekly Cabinet briefing on Friday that the government was planning to lower the age of consent. He gave no reason, but said the proposal was approved "after much debate and a long review."

Under the current law, sexual relations with a girl under 16 are treated as rape irrespective of whether they are consensual, and regardless of the male's age.

But the government reversed its decision after a flurry of telephone calls from incensed citizens following the announcement, The Sunday Island newspaper said.

"There is no proposal, whatsoever, to reduce that to 13 or to any other age," it quoted Dhara Wijayatillake, a secretary in the Ministry of Justice, as saying Saturday.

"In terms of the Penal Code, consent of the woman is not a defense in charges of rape when the girl is under 16," it quoted Wijayatillake as saying. "Sexual intercourse with a girl below 16 continues to amount to rape."

However, she added that the law might be amended to give the attorney general the power to decide whether to prosecute the male in cases in which "the two parties involved are young and the act of sexual intercourse took place with the consent of the girl."

"It is not always in the best interest of the parties or of justice to prosecute the boy," she said. She did not elaborate, but said "our objective is to alleviate what is seen as an injustice," referring to the risk of prosecution faced by the boy even if there was mutual consent. *AP*

Car bomb blast kills 30 in latest anti-Shiite attack

BAGHDAD—A CAR BOMB EXPLOSION killed at least 30 and wounded 38 Saturday on the outskirts of Baghdad in what appeared to be the latest attack on Iraq's majority Shiite population, a security official said.

More than 200 Iraqi Shiites have been killed this week in attacks by Sunni extremists linked to al-Qaida's Iraq frontman, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Both Sunni and Shiite religious leaders have warned the onslaught could trigger a sectarian war between the two communities.

Saturday's attack occurred around 7 p.m. in the predominantly Shiite southeastern suburb of Nahrawan as police concentrated their forces to the west in a bid to protect Shiites on their way to a religious festival in the central city of Karbala.

Hundreds of police commandos and Shiite militiamen were lining the main highway from the capital to Karbala to provide protection to tens of thousands of Shiite pilgrims, many of whom were making the 110-kilometer journey on foot.

Authorities ordered the tighter security ahead of Monday's commemoration of the birth more than 1,000 years ago of the Shiites' 12th and last imam, Mohammed al-Mehdi, and in the wake of Zarqawi's threat of all-out war against Shiites who now control the government.

On Wednesday, a suicide car bomber killed some 112 Shiite day laborers in an attack on a Baghdad square where they had gathered to wait for work.

On Friday, 11 Shiite worshippers were killed as they left the main weekly prayers in the town of Tuz Khurmatu, in the north of the country.

In its Internet statement Wednesday, Zarqawi's group said it was calling for "total war" against Shiites in revenge for a massive assault by US and Iraqi troops on Sunni insurgents in the northern town of Tal Afar.

But the threat appeared more likely designed to spark a massive Shiite backlash against Sunni Arabs, driving them into the arms of the anti-government insurgents. *AFP*

Scientists: Comets may all be made of the same stuff

HILO, HAWAII—ASTRONOMERS using telescopes atop Mauna Kea believe comets may all be made of the same matter.

Scientists had thought comets fell into two distinct categories because of their vastly different orbits and what seemed to be different compositions, said Chick Woodward, a University of Minnesota astronomer who used the Gemini telescope to view the July 4 Deep Impact experiment in which a Nasa spacecraft smashed a comet with a space probe.

"Now we see that the difference may really be just superficial, only skin deep," he said. "Under the surface, these comets may not be so different after all."

Astronomers from the Keck, Subaru and Gemini observatories reported their conclusions Friday in the journal Science.

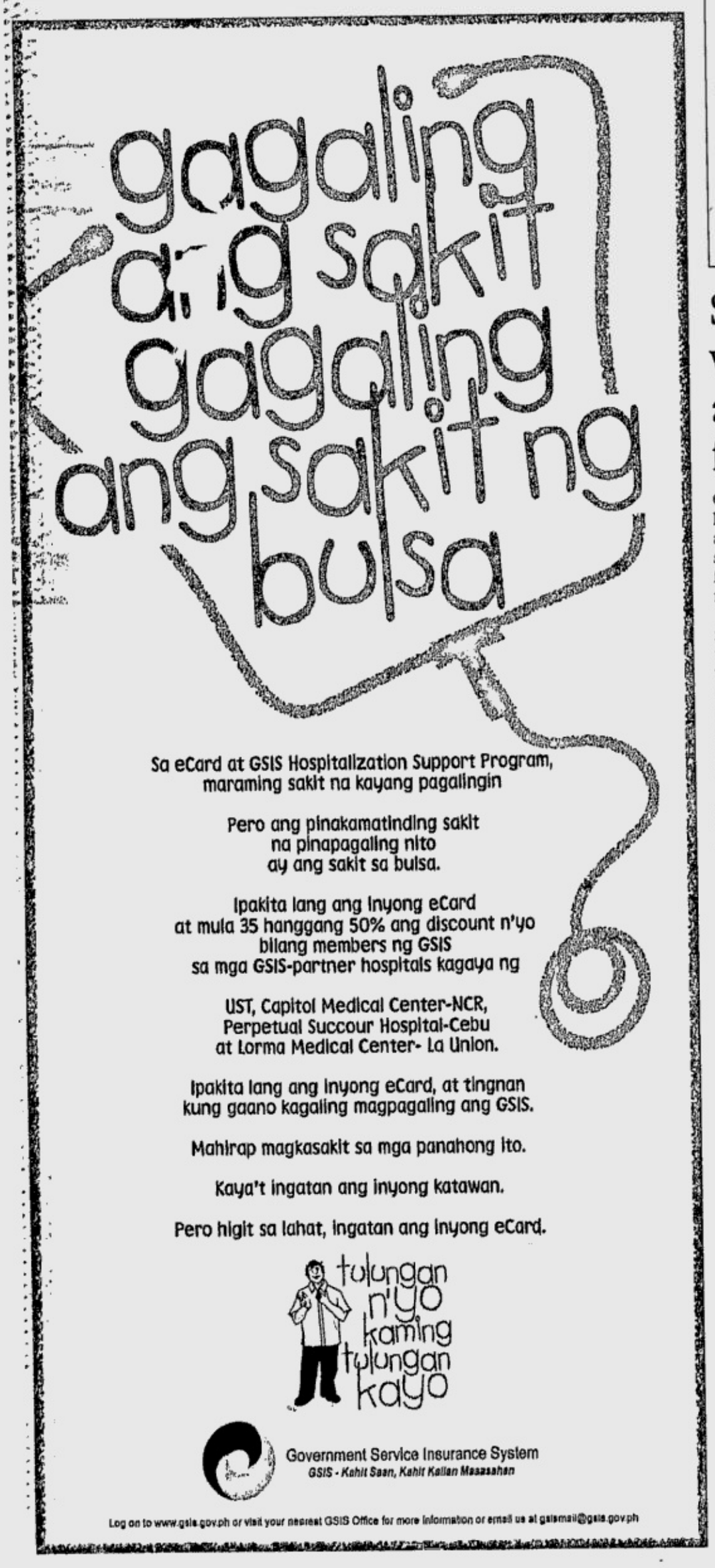
During the Deep Impact experiment a piano-sized probe was sent crashing into Comet Tempel 1, 83 million miles away from Earth.

Scientists had believed that comets such as Tempel 1, which regularly orbit past the sun, were different from the variety of comets believed to remain in a shell-like cloud of comets orbiting the sun called the Oort Cloud.

Analysis of the dust blasted from the interior of Tempel 1—about 25 tractor-trailer trucks worth—shows it is made of much of the same matter as Oort Cloud comets, the astronomers wrote in Science.

The material included water, carbon-containing substances such as gas ethane, and silicates such as olivine—the same green mineral that makes up the Big Island's Green Sands beach.

"It's now likely that these bodies formed between the orbits of Jupiter and Neptune in a common nursery," said Seiji Sugata, a Subaru astronomer from the University of Tokyo. *AP*



Taliban raids fail to deter historic Afghan vote

AN AFGHAN woman blows on her finger to dry the ink used to prevent fraud as she waits to cast her ballot in the parliamentary elections in Herat Sept. 18. REUTERS

KABUL—TALIBAN FIGHTERS launched a series of attacks on Sunday as Afghans voted in their first legislative elections in decades which were hailed by President Hamid Karzai as a defining moment in the nation's struggle to rebuild.

More than a dozen attacks were launched across the southeast and two rockets were fired into a UN compound near an election center in Kabul shortly after polls opened. Only one exploded, slightly wounding an Afghan worker, an election official said.

Several hours earlier two policemen and three insurgents were killed in an ambush near the Pakistani border and a Taliban fighter was killed in an overnight attack on a polling station in troubled Helmand province in the south, officials said.

But the threat of violence by the Taliban failed to deter many voters, who relished the chance to elect parliamentarians and councilors for the first time since 1969.

"I'm so happy, I couldn't sleep last night and was watching the clock to come out to vote," said Qari Salahuddin, 21, at a polling station in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

About 12.5 million Afghans are registed to vote in the $159 million, UN-organized polls for a lower house of parliament and councils in all 34 provinces.

Residents in some parts of the country said voting in the first few hours was slow.

About 160,000 staff are on duty at more than 6,000 polling stations in some of the most scenic and remote terrain on earth, from the desert in the south to valleys among the snow-capped Hindu Kush mountains in the north.

"(It) is the day of self-determination for the Afghan people," Karzai told reporters after voting at a heavily guarded state guest house.

"That is why we are making history after 30 years of wars, interventions, occupations and misery."

The Taliban vowed but failed to disrupt preparations for the poll, which comes nearly four years after US-led troops drove the fundamentalist Islamic rulers from power.

Protecting voters are about 100,000 troops, including about 20,000 from a US-led force and 10,000 Nato-led peacekeepers.

Seven candidates and six poll workers were killed in the run-up to the ballot. Attackers threw two grenades into the house of a candidate in Nangarhar province in the east overnight. The candidate was not hurt but five family members were wounded, police said.

A US military spokesperson said there had been attacks in more than a dozen areas in the southern and eastern provinces of Khost, Kandahar and Kunar in which at least six Afghan troops and one US soldier were wounded.

"We are seeing harassing attacks—small arms, rocket grenades and IED type of stuff, pretty much throughout the east and southeast of Afghanistan," said Col. Jim Yonts, referring to improvised explosive devices.

Taliban spokesperson Abdul Latif Hakimi said militants had carried out 39 attacks including the rocket attack in Kabul.

The elections are the final part of an international plan to restore democracy in the Muslim country after the Taliban's overthrow. In the previous phase, Karzai won presidential elections last year, the first in the nation's history.

Yunus Qanuni, who came second to Karzai in the presidential vote and now heads an opposition bloc, criticized the exclusion of political parties from the process but nevertheless, urged people to vote.

Voters have to navigate complicated ballot papers, a tall order for many Afghans who are illiterate and have little experience in voting. *Reuters*

Key events leading to assembly polls

KABUL—AFGHANS VOTED UNDER MASSIVE security Sunday to elect their first new parliament for more than 30 years. The following is a chronology of key events in the country since the hardline Taliban government fell.

Sept. 11, 2001: More than 3,000 people are killed in New York and Washington in attacks blamed on Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

Oct. 7: First US-led military strikes launched on Afghanistan as the Taliban fail to meet US demands to hand over Bin Laden.

Nov. 13: Northern Alliance forces enter Kabul following an overnight pullout by Taliban troops. The capture of the capital follows sweeping gains against Taliban forces across northern Afghanistan.

Dec. 6: The Taliban agrees to surrender its last stronghold of Kandahar and supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar flees the city.

Dec. 22: Hamid Karzai is sworn in as head of a 30-member post-Taliban government following agreements reached in Bonn, Germany, laying down a timetable for Afghanistan's transition to democracy.

April 18, 2002: Former king Zahir Shah, 87, returns from 29 years' exile in Rome.

June 13: Karzai elected for a two-year term by Afghanistan's traditional grand assembly, the Loya Jirga. Under US pressure, Zahir Shah renounces claim to be head of state.

Sept. 5: Karzai survives assassination attempt in Kandahar. The same day 30 Afghans are killed in car bomb explosion in Kabul.

March 17, 2003: Donors' conference in Brussels pledges $2 billion toward rebuilding Afghanistan.

May 20: Governors of 10 provinces and leading warlords agree to respect authority of central government following a fervent appeal by Karzai.

June 7: Public consultation process launched throughout Afghanistan with a view to adopting its future constitution.

Aug. 11: Nato takes charge of International Security Assistance Force deployed to Afghanistan after the Bonn accords. It is the first Nato mission outside of Europe since its inception 54 years earlier.

Jan. 4, 2004: Loya Jirga approves new Constitution envisaging a presidential system of government.

Jan 6: The International Security Assistance Force extends its mandate beyond Kabul.

March 28: Karzai announces presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for June will be delayed until September.

March 31: Berlin donors' conference pledges $ 8.2 billion in aid.

July 9: Electoral commission announces presidential elections will be on Oct. 9, but delays parliamentary polls until 2005.

Oct. 9: First post-Taliban presidential elections pass off with little bloodshed despite militant threats.

Nov. 3: Karzai proclaimed winner with 55 percent of vote.

Dec. 7: Karzai inaugurated at ceremony attended by US Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

March 17, 2005: Karzai and visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announce parliamentary polls to be delayed until September.

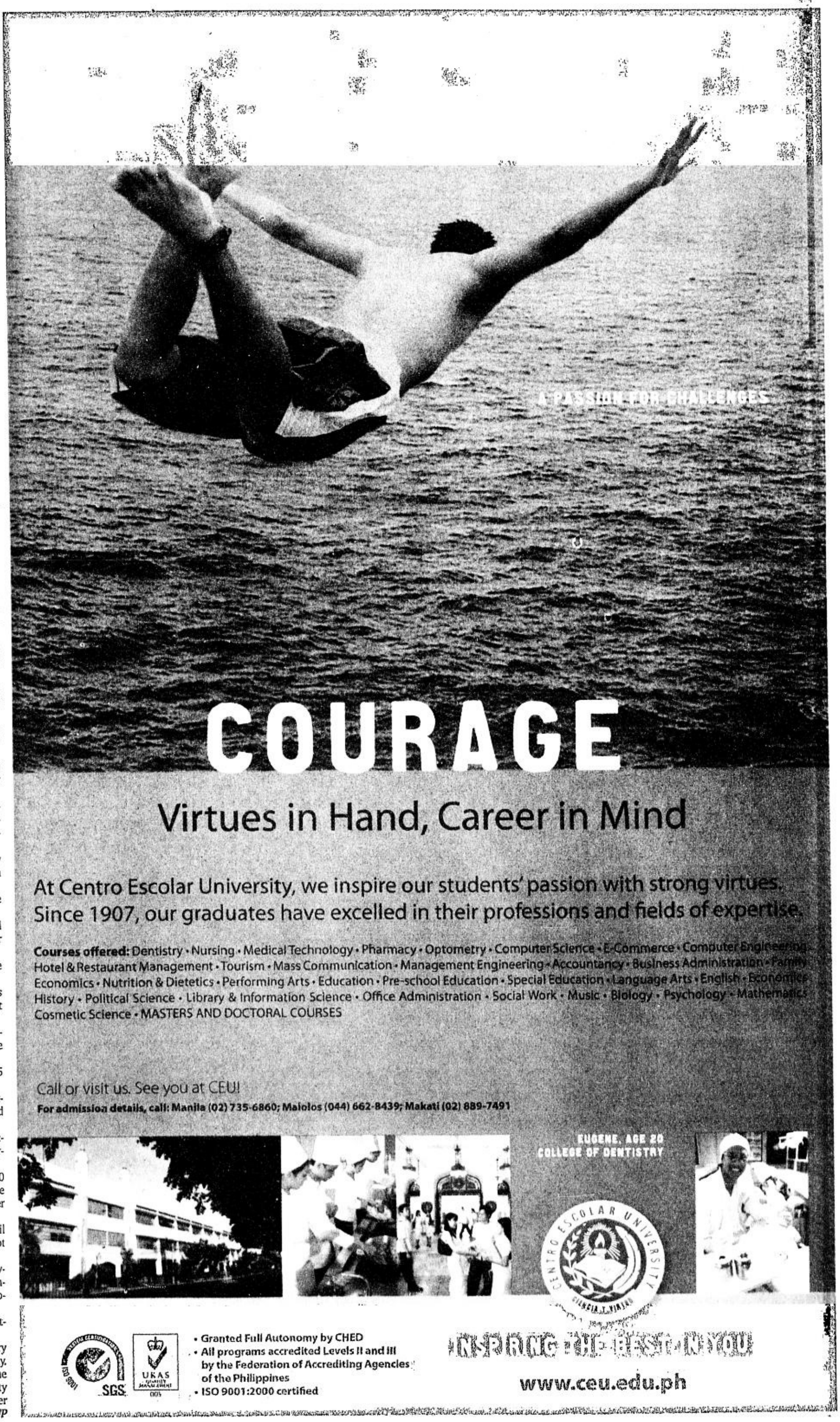
July 12: Election officials say more than 5,800 candidates are eligible for the elections, more than 10 percent of them women. Several are later disqualified, mainly for links to armed groups.

Aug. 22: Taliban insurgents vow to derail preparations for the vote, but say they will not attack polling booths on election day.

Sept. 15: Taliban militants shoot dead seventh election candidate. Afghanistan announces it will deploy 100,000 troops and police for the election.

Sept. 16: A Taliban spokesperson warns voters to boycott election or face possible attacks.

Sept. 18: Voting in the first parliamentary elections in more than 30 years gets under way. A series of attacks and clashes hours before the polls open leave several militants and security officials dead, including the first French soldier to be killed in Afghanistan. *AFP*



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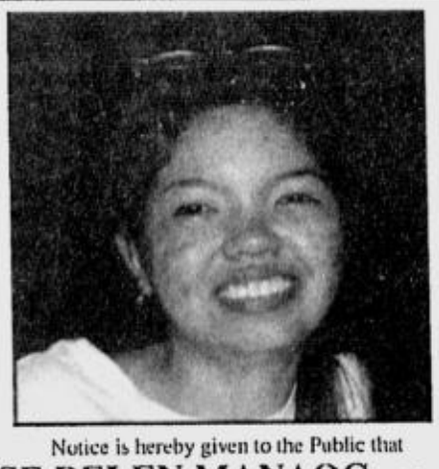

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Race open as voting begins in German election

BERLIN—VOTING BEGAN IN GERmany's closely fought election on Sunday with millions of undecided voters holding the key to a result that will have major implications for economic reform in Europe.

Christian Democrat challenger Angela Merkel is expected to emerge as Germany's first woman chancellor, displacing Gerhard Schroeder who has led Germany for the past seven years at the head of a center-left government of Social Democrats and Greens.

But with unprecedented numbers of voters apparently undecided on the eve of the vote, it was unclear whether she could muster enough support to form the center-right coalition government she says is needed to push through deep reforms of Germany's ailing economy.

If she cannot, she will probably be forced to share power with Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD) in a "grand coalition" that financial markets fear would produce gridlock and stall the reforms that Schroeder himself has already begun.

Polls opened at 8 a.m. Voting closes and the first exit polls are announced at 6 p.m. and a provisional result is expected to be announced in the early hours of Monday morning.

Weather forecasters are predicting fine autumn weather across most of the country.

The final opinion polls published on Friday gave Merkel's center-right coalition with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) a slim lead in a race it once dominated.

For Merkel, a quietly determined politician from the formerly communist east with none of Schroeder's electioneering charisma, victory would make her one of the most powerful leaders in Europe 15 years after she entered politics following the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Schroeder has thrown himself into campaigning with a drive that has rocked his opponents and raised the possibility that the SPD may be able to salvage something from the election even if Schroeder himself steps down.

That in itself would be a formidable achievement for a leader apparently facing oblivion when he announced in May that he would be seeking the election a year ahead of schedule.

For Germany and the rest of Europe, the stakes in the election are high.

Some five million Germans are out of work, the country's pensions system is in crisis, its public finances are overstretched and the economy that once drove growth in Europe is now acting as a drag on the rest of the continent.

Analysts say that if Germany succeeds in pushing through reforms, they could be a model for change in the rest of Europe.

Surveys show that most Germans believe the system needs changing but they are deeply uncertain about how far the changes should go and how the burden should be shared.

Schroeder's own "Agenda 2010" reforms to welfare and labor market rules have been the most ambitious attempt to overhaul the social security system in decades.

They have been attacked by the conservatives and by some commentators as not going far enough.

But they were bitterly resented by voters, contributing to a string of election defeats that raise questions about how much pain any party will be able or willing to impose. *Reuters*

GIRLS in traditional Bavarian clothes toast with one-liter beer mugs during the opening day of the Oktoberfest in Munich Sept. 17. Millions of beer drinkers from around the world will come to the Bavarian capital Munich for the world's biggest and most famous beer festival, the Oktoberfest. REUTERS

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Chavez in New York: You hit me in cheek, I'll help you

NEW YORK—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has left New York, where he took part in a UN summit, but found time to visit the heavily Hispanic neighborhoods of the city and declare his love for its residents.

"I'm one of those people who are capable of falling in love," the Venezuelan leader told an audience at a New York church. "I love New York and I love the Bronx. Today was the first time I was able to see the soul of the American people."

He promised to study ways for schools, hospitals and orphanages in poor neighborhoods to start receiving cheaper gas and promised to fund a study on cleaning up the Bronx River.

Chavez flew to Havana for talks with Cuban leader Fidel Casto that he said he expected to go through the night.

"Fidel is a man from another planet who never sleeps. We will talk till seven in the morning," he predicted.

The outspoken Chavez littered his speech to the UN world summit Thursday with anti-US comments that were strongly applauded. He later accused the US administration of supporting terrorism and of planning to invade his country.

Chavez also took swipes at the United Nations, saying it was "good for nothing."

Venezuela is the fourth biggest oil source for the United States. "We have no plans to alter in any way the supply of oil to the United States," Chavez said in an interview with ABC television Friday.

He explained how Venezuela was donating gasoline, through its state-owned Citgo stations, at a cut rate or free in American areas hurt by Hurricane Katrina.

Citgo has also put up hundreds of people on the grounds of a refinery outside New Orleans, he said.

"You hit me on one cheek, and I'll try to respond by helping you, I don't care. We're not doing this for the administration. We're doing it for the people of the United States," the left wing leader said.

US authorities were embarrassed recently after conservative evangelist Pat Robertson called for the United States to have Chavez killed.

Washington has said that Chavez, a close ally of Castro, is a destabilizing influence in Latin America. *AFP*

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GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
Builds Bridges In The Philippines

Recently, a delegation from the Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH) of Los Angeles California led by its Chief Executive Officer and President, Andrew B. Leeka, visited the Philippines for three main reasons: to explore the possibility of developing a working relationship with the Philippine Healthcare System; to show its Filipino workforce a deeper sense of commitment by GSH to their heritage; and to conduct immigration workshops for Filipino nurses at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel and the Cebu Marriott Hotel. Lexie Schuster, Vice President of Human Resources and Angela Montesa Pelayo, Director of Employment and Labor Management also joined Leeka in his trip to the Philippines.

"This is merely the first step in our aim to establish a working relationship with the nurses and hospitals in the Philippines," said Mr. Leeka. Good Samaritan Hospital would like, on a continuing basis, to bring a pre-determined number of Filipino nurses to the United States, enabling them to receive additional advanced training so as to benefit both countries and their communities.

Perhaps, one of the firsts in the industry, Good Sam is now exploring such an arrangement with the The Medical City (TMC) hospital in Pasig City. Currently one of the biggest and most advanced medical care facility in the country, TMC admits to the difficulties they, and the entire medical care community, encounter when their nurses leave the Philippines for other opportunities of advancement. Said TMC's Assistant Vice President for Human Resource, Mr. Crispin Peralta, Jr., "the brain drain of nurses in the Philippines is a natural consequence of their inner skill and desire to improve their lives and that of their families. While we are left scrambling for cover, we do understand their desires for a better life and do not wish to stop them from leaving the country."

The solution is to balance retaining nurses with their desire for additional advanced training by GSH and TMC working in a collaborative fashion to benefit both hospitals. Good Sam will forecast its nursing needs 18 or 24 months in advance, will participate in their training via teleconferencing, among other facilities, and monitor their career development towards their actual hiring date. This way, TMC will be able to plan ahead their human resource requirements, assist their nurses and families, and benefit from the transfer of training from the United States. Good Sam, in return, will have a steady flow of nursing staff that are well trained and motivated.

Good Samaritan Hospital looks forward to this relationship and is confident that they can come up with a mutually beneficial outcome both for themselves and the nursing community in the Philippines.

The Good Samaritan Hospital delegation also met with the Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, the head of the Philippine Catholic Church and the Undersecretary of Finance Roberto Tan and Executive Director Presentacion Montesa.

Honored as the 'Best Medical Center' in downtown Los Angeles for seven years running (Downtown News, 7/05) Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH) is an established leader in tertiary care. First opened in 1885, the non-profit hospital is now home to many regional Centers of Excellence that draw patients from across the U.S. and internationally. In addition to other programs, specialized GSH services include;

- State-of-the-art Heart Care Program, including Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Neurosciences Program featuring Gamma Knife radiosurgery to treat Brain Tumors
- Women's Health Services Department, including Obstetrics, Gynecology, Gyn-Oncology, Breast Care, Perinatology, Neonatal Intensive Care, and Assisted Reproductive Services
- Ophthalmologic Program, including Retinal Surgery
- Emergency Services with a FastTrack Program
- Kidney Stone Services
- Orthopedic Surgical Program, including Sports Medicine and Specialized Pelvic and Hip Procedures
- Nasal and Sinus Disorder Treatment
- Oncology Program that utilizes the latest in radiation therapy - IMRT and HDR
- Podiatric Care
- Digestive Diseases program
- Samaritan Imaging Center
- Transfusion-Free Medicine and Surgery Center

Good Samaritan Hospital is a 408-bed hospital with approximately 1,500 GSH employees, including 550 nurses, and a medical staff of more than 650 physicians.

For more information visit www.goodsam.org.

Andrew B. Leeka (CEO & President, GSH) Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, and Angela Montesa Pelayo (Director of Employment and Labor Management, GSH) during the courtesy call with the Archbishop at his palace in Intramuros

Lexie Schuster (Vice President of Human Resources, GSH) with The Medical City Staff during the hospital tour

Doctors brace for 'second disaster' after Katrina

By Maggie Fox

NEW ORLEANS—DOCTORS ARE bracing themselves for what they call a "second disaster" as residents of New Orleans and surrounding areas return to their devastated city.

While environmentalists fear the long-term danger to health from possibly polluted floodwaters and rumors of disease swirl, front-line emergency doctors say the actual health danger will come from accidents.

"The second wave of disaster is when you welcome the people back and the infrastructure of the city is not in place," said Dr. Peter Deblieux, an emergency room doctor at downtown New Orleans' Charity Hospital.

Officials in New Orleans and surround Jefferson Parish began allowing residents to return over the weekend and say everyone can come back by mid-week. But residents whose homes were not completely destroyed will confront fallen trees, wrecked roofs and streets full of nails.

Someone will have to clean it up.

"We will see the chainsaw people—lacerations of the left thigh, lacerations of the left forearm," Deblieux said in an interview. "There will be people falling off the scaffolding."

Public health experts concur. After Hurricane Charley hit Florida in 2004, 77 percent of the deaths blamed on the hurricane were classified as unintentional injury.

Deblieux is concerned about plans to allow more than 180,000 people to return to New Orleans with only four area hospitals up and running, and only one of those in New Orleans proper.

Charity, the city's free public hospital, remains closed, its electricity panels destroyed by flooding. "Where will people get treatment?" asked Deblieux.

Some areas still will lack electricity and clean drinking water.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is launching an education effort to caution people about the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning if they use generators.

While some areas have uncontaminated water, 90 percent of the population does not, the CDC said on Saturday.

"Raw sewage is being discharged into the Mississippi River," the CDC said in a report.

"It is contaminated with human and animal waste. But there isn't this sort of toxic soup out there," said Dr. Tom Clark, an infectious disease specialist at the CDC.

Medical teams have seen cases of diarrhea, stomach upset and respiratory irritation, and CDC epidemiologists are studying the data to see if they are more common than they were before the hurricane struck.

The CDC and Environmental Protection Agency are both telling people to wash off mud or dirt as soon as possible and to avoid getting floodwaters on them.

There are heavy metals, oil products such as diesel, as solvents in the water—but not huge amounts. And as the mud dries, some compounds, especially the metals such as lead and arsenic, will remain in the dirt.

There has been some diarrhea but no epidemics and despite fears, evacuees are not spreading diseases widely. And if people are careful, the contaminated tap water should no pose any great threat, the CDC said.

"E. coli in general are normal flora of the gastrointestinal tracts of people and animals," Clark said. *Reuters*

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Conversion

EDITORIAL

AS IT STANDS, THE AUDACIOUS PROPOSAL TO convert as much as half of the world's external debt into equity in poverty-reduction programs still leaves some important questions unanswered. But as it stands, the proposal may be the last best hope for countries such as the Philippines to pry themselves loose, finally, from the trillion-dollar debt trap.

At the heart of the proposal—first raised by Speaker Jose de Venecia last July, and then again two weeks ago at the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in New York City, and then reiterated by President Macapagal-Arroyo last week at the UN General Assembly—is the principle of conversion.

The proposal seeks to convert part of the debt payments of a highly or moderately indebted country into equity stakes in Millennium Development Goal-related projects. The proportional stakes will be owned by the lenders, but the projects will be located where they are most needed: inside the indebted country itself.

De Venecia told a UN forum organized to discuss the proposal: "We plead not for debt forgiveness, not for debt cancellation, not for debt moratorium, not for debt discounts. Our proposal requires no new monies from the parliaments and governments of rich nations. Nor do we envision any reduction or loss of face value in the creditors' financial assets. What we propose is a global conversion of debt for MDG projects ... a plowback of up to 50 percent of debt payments received."

The principal Millennium Development Goal is the halving of poverty levels by 2015. But countries like the Philippines set aside as much as 60 to 70 centavos of every peso of the national budget for debt payments; this leaves precious little for poverty-reduction programs.

The fundamental idea behind the conversion proposal is to free up much more of a government's budget for necessary investments, say in new school buildings, or in farm-to-market roads, or in children's nutrition programs. "We can address the problem of poverty if we have the money with which to finance anti-poverty projects," De Venecia said.

But will the lenders—such as the Paris Club, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, and certain commercial banks—accept the proposal? It is easy to see what countries like the Philippines will stand to gain from conversion; in the case of the Philippines, and according to De Venecia's own computations, as much as P112.5 billion in redirected funds. But what will the lenders get for their pains?

The idea of acquiring equity or an ownership stake in certain assets may be financially appealing for some, but it is best to face up to the truth. The real benefit of the conversion proposal is longer-term, and macro-economic. The bottom-line appeal, in other words, is Kennedyesque: a rising tide, the proposal assumes, will lift all boats. A surge in funds available to reduce poverty will raise incomes and improve the quality of life. And that can only be good for everyone concerned.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition has already criticized the proposal, because instead of helping prove that much of the country's foreign debt was illegitimate and therefore condonable, the proposal fudges the issue. Clearly, the loan the country assumed to pay for the useless Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, for example, was legally defective and morally offensive. But that particular debt was securitized almost a decade ago; in other words, the original lenders had already been paid, and government has no choice but to pay the new lenders who had assumed the debt.

It is precisely this stark reality, this reminder of the brutally unforgiving nature of international finance, that recommends the conversion proposal to us. To be sure, other debt-relief initiatives must continue, including some version of the five-year moratorium outlined in the "Blueprint for a Viable Philippines." But think of it: If this conversion proposal actually results in reversing the flow of hundreds of billions of pesos out of the country and back into the countryside, we should all be glad to call ourselves converts.

Napocor petitions for yet another rate hike

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WILL OUR MISERIES NEVER CEASE? AFTER the expanded value added tax—which, upon its implementation beginning this month, will trigger a chain-reaction of increases in the prices of practically everything—we will be hit by another wallop. The power rate will increase—again—as if it is not yet high enough.

While the whole nation's attention was riveted to the political crisis, the National Power Corp. took advantage of the distraction to petition the Energy Regulatory Commission for yet another 71-centavo rate increase. The ERC already granted, just late last year, a provisional authority to Napocor to increase its rates by an average of P.9798 per kWh. In this latest petition, the power firm refused to go into the details as to why it is asking for another increase. It just said the increase would cover the cost of "oil and other operating expenses" of the ailing state-run firm.

On top of the rate increase, Napocor also managed to quietly get another $400-million (more than P2 billion) foreign loan. Of this, $300 million was obtained through the issuance of six-year floating rate notes. The remaining $100 million, secured only last week, completed the financial package. The fresh borrowings are all guaranteed by the government. They will set back the privatization of Napocor as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira).

Napocor is already the biggest contributor to the national budget deficit. It is expected to incur another P31 billion in losses this year, in spite of the fact that the Philippines is already running neck and neck with Japan, Asia's richest nation, as the countries with the highest power rates in the region. The Philippine government has already absorbed P200 billion (repeat, billion) of Napocor's debts, pursuant to the Epira. Thus, the taxpayers will have to pay for Napocor's debts, old and new, on top of higher electricity rates.

But while the government is quick to implement the Epira provision absorbing Napocor's debts, it is very slow in implementing the provisions to privatize this biggest of the government's white elephants.

Where does the money go? Here is only one example: A joint congressional panel investigating Napocor found out last year that thousands of Napocor officials and employees were paid a total of about P12 billion in retirement packages in preparation for the firm's auction sale.

Of the amount, P119.4 million was given to 25 executives and senior officers. After getting their generous retirement benefits, these top management executives were then re-hired at similarly fabulous salaries.

How can the government ask the people to pay higher taxes when it is squandering Napocor's dwindling funds to graft and corruption, in bribes to congressmen and mercenary witnesses, and for the expenses of camp followers made to travel abroad just to clap during GMA's speeches?

Why the government is giving priority to Napocor's fresh borrowings rather than to its privatization, as provided by the Epira law, is still a mystery. Privatization will, in fact, help the government raise the funds needed to pay Napocor's debts and reduce government borrowings as well as the tax burden on Filipinos. Privatization is one way to stop the financial hemorrhage brought about by new borrowings and to arrest the government's worsening fiscal condition.

New borrowings, on the other hand, will add to the already unmanageable debt burden. Who in his right mind will buy Napocor with its gargantuan debts?

Adding insult to injury is the jubilation of the Bangko Sentral over the new borrowings, when it should be sorry for them. Why? The latest borrowings, the Bangko Sentral boasted, "boosted the country's gross international reserves to an all-time high of $17.852 billion!" Adding more to our debt burden, that's something to be proud of?

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri, the guy who has started refusing to sign checks because there are no more cash to cover them, was more circumspect when he correctly pointed out that Napocor's debt is taking its toll on the government's fiscal position, with the bulk of government expenditures during the first seven months of this year going to interest payments alone. The bitter truth is, the government has no clear picture of what to do with the ballooning budget deficit and foreign debts. And Napocor is already the biggest single contributor to this deficit.

The Philippine government is already in a debt spiral—borrowing more to fund interest payments alone—not even the principal of maturing loans—thus making our national debt bigger and bigger, with no sign of how and when the spiral will end. This is the straight path down to bankruptcy.

The government's solution is simplicity itself: squeeze more taxes out of the people. But the Filipinos, among the poorest people in the world, have no more to give. They can't even afford their daily bread; where will they get the taxes to pay the government? They will be like the goose that lays the golden egg, which the greedy giant forced to lay more and more golden eggs so that it died.

I think Congress, which has the power of oversight on these borrowings, should look into the picture again and see where the money is going or has gone. It is imperative that Congress look into this mess because the executive branch has shown that it cannot stop the financial hemorrhage but, in fact, contributes to it. Just look at GMA's latest secret deal—the Venable lobby contract that will cost the taxpayers another P4 million a month, another expense they can no longer afford.

Who knows how many of these secret deals are still out there undiscovered?

Legacies

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(This is a vastly abbreviated version of the talk I gave last Thursday on the 68th anniversary of the signing of the women's suffrage bill. You may find it has something to say to you, even if you are not a woman.)

I MUST CONFESS I DID NOT EXPECT THE topic you gave me. "If your wife and daughter were part of the fight for suffrage, would you have rallied around their cause? Why?" It sounds almost like a question that is asked of beauty contestants, to which group I am hard put to qualify.

I suppose the people who thought of that question naturally expected me to say yes, and make a case for the nobility of the cause. Quite honestly, however, my first instinct, in the light of the national crisis we've been facing lately, was to say I'd be damn glad if they would just fight for votes being counted, never mind if they came from man or woman. I'd be damn glad if they would just fight to have a Comelec that knew how to count.

But let me assume that having the right to vote means having one's vote counted by people who know how to count, and get back to the question. If my wife and daughter were fighting for suffrage, would I have rallied behind their cause?

Still, quite honestly, I don't know.

I'm not trying to be cute. Where I'm coming from today, that would be the easiest thing to answer. But that is the problem. I know where I'm coming from today. I don't know where I'd be coming from before Sept. 25, 1937, when the fight for women's suffrage would have been raging.

Today, the idea that women are not qualified to vote seems the most ludicrous thing in the world. I can imagine that 70 years from now, the thought of this country's privileged few keeping the wealth to themselves and depriving the teeming many of the bare necessities would seem like the most suicidal thing in the world, a French Revolution in the making. But as we can see, many people today find this a perfectly reasonable arrangement.

What can I say? Life is a paradox. The hardest things to grasp are the most commonsensical ones. The hardest things to see are the most obvious ones. The hardest enemy to fight is one's self.

I must tell you a bit about how I got to be where I am today. I did not live in the 1930s as a kid, I did so in the 1950s in Naga City. I grew up in a time and place where the concept of men and women being equal made as much sense as the concept of the parish not being the center of the universe. Boys did not naturally play with girls, or study with them. I don't know that it derived completely from distrust of raging hormones in juvenile bodies. I half-suspect it also derived from a distrust of girls adulterating boys' mental faculties with, well, lapses in judgment.

I recall that it was the kiss of death for husbands to be called "under the *saya*," literally under a woman's skirt. Ironically, most of them in my neighborhood were, except that they didn't know it. The wives did rule our neighborhood, except that not all of them did so by showing they were the boss of their homes. Many of them did so by making their husbands think they, the husbands, were. Then, as now, the wives understood the secret of effective rule, which was: Honesty is not the best policy, subtlety is.

How I clawed out of the Dark Ages into the second half of the 20th century is a story unto itself. I'll just mention a couple of things that helped me mightily to ascend the ladder of evolution.

The gratuitous part was that I came to Manila in a time of ferment. The city was afire with activism. The word "afire" is especially apt: The activists then spoke of revolution spreading like a prairie fire, and it did so particularly in the campuses. Each generation creates its gap between young and old, between past and present, but at no time did this gap yawn like a chasm or prove a collision of worlds than then. It broke conventional ways of thinking and doing things probably more thoroughly than the War itself did.

I don't know where I'd be right now if I had not gone through that historic watershed. It is not inconceivable that I would even now be working in America, worrying about the future only of my family.

Of course, not all, or even most, of those who became activists did so out of idealistic fervor or iconoclastic rebelliousness. Paradoxically many of us probably did so out of a deep-seated desire for acceptance, or to "be in," as we called it then. Being an activist, especially after the First Quarter Storm, was cool, as today's kids call it now. You might not always have gotten the girl—or the boy—in the final reel, but at least you got back at a finger-wagging patriarchal society by thrusting your middle finger at it. It isn't really that surprising from hindsight that activism fired the imagination of the scholars in my school, notwithstanding that they stood to lose the most, their parents counting on them to rescue them from poverty. Activism was the Revenge of the Nerds—or the Promdi. Suddenly, "*elitista*" was out, "*masa*" was in. Suddenly, to be the son of a tenant was to be lucky and that of a landlord to be cursed. Before this time was over, I would be psychologically as far away from my childhood as Nelson Mandela is ideologically from George W. Bush.

Would I be in a so different place today if that hadn't happened to me?

Well, I'd like to think probably not that different because of one other thing that helped me climb up the ladder of evolution. That is the faculty of self-examination, or the capacity for introspection. It's a truism, but it's true. I've had a lifetime of experience to vouch for it: The easiest thing to change is the world, the hardest thing to change is oneself. Maybe, that's why the world doesn't seem to change at all, or does so ever so slowly. *(To be concluded)*

The Charter change foreign lobby

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE MORE NORBERTO GONZALES TRIES TO explain his lobbying contract with an American law firm, the more ridiculous he looks. "Ridiculous," however, is not enough to characterize what has been done. "Treasonous" might come closer.

The first task which the contract gives to the American lobbying group is to "(s)ecure grants or congressional earmarks for support of the Charter change initiative of the President of the Philippines, which would reshape the form of government in the Philippines from its current structure into a parliamentary federal system." Gonzales tried to cover this up by suggesting that what was more important in the contract was the task of seeking a "capability enhancement program for the Armed Forces of the Philippines." The paragraph on capability enhancement, however, comes almost as an afterthought; or more correctly, as a camouflage.

What is being sought is the opposite of the patriotic efforts of Filipino leaders' lobbying in the United States Congress, in the early '30s, for a more honorable Independence Law. Malacañang owes it to the Filipino people to disclose the full story behind this act to subvert the independence of local efforts to revise the fundamental law. The Constitution guarantees the "right of the people to information on matters of public concern." Foreign involvement in the revision of our Constitution is a matter of paramount public concern. It cannot be said that the subject is one of those matters to which public access to information may be limited. The subject does not involve "state secrets regarding military, diplomatic and other national security," even if it involves principally the political aspirations of certain public figures.

Significantly, there is this constitutional rule about financial contributions from foreign governments: "Financial contributions from foreign governments and their agencies to political parties, organizations, coalitions, or candidates related to elections constitute interference in national affairs, and, when accepted, shall be an additional ground for the cancellation of their registration with the Commission, in addition to other penalties that may be prescribed by law." The proscription of financial contribution to political parties from foreign governments is designed to insulate the electoral process from foreign interference. Accepting such contribution comes close to being treasonous.

The evil becomes magnified when the intended object of interference is the re-crafting of the fundamental law. If acceptance of contribution for such object is not explicitly prohibited by the Constitution, it is not because the Constitution does not see it as an evil but rather because the evil is so obvious that no thinking person can miss it. In fact, this is so obvious to many current high-ranking officials that they have quickly joined in the chorus singing that they know or knew nothing about it.

As if the sin could be covered by making it private, Gonzales has gone on to say that public money will not be spent but that money will come or has come from private individuals. Does a government acquit itself from a criminal liability simply by enticing goons to do a crime?

I am not saying that the alleged private contributors are goons. They may be perfectly honorable, if misguided, individuals. But we should be told, under the right to information on matters of public concern, who these private individuals are. Are they Filipinos or are they foreigners? What are their own private interests? This is a matter that is crying for a public confession and not just a simple acknowledgment of a lapse in judgment.

If there is anything that we should learn from this caper, it is that this administration cannot be trusted with orchestrating the revision of our Constitution. For reasons of its own, whether honorable or not, it is dead set on forcing a switch to a parliamentary and federal form of government. The constitutional revision enterprise is a solemnly sovereign one. It should be insulated from influences that can imprint on the fundamental law directions that do or can undermine national interest. We know from our experience in the electoral process that money can be dangled to deaden consciences. Foreign money should not be allowed, much less should it be sought, to influence popular choice.

Betrayal of public trust was the leading accusation against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the impeachment proceeding against her. That accusation has not been cleared. It has merely been swept under the rug by a subservient House of Representatives. Now comes this appeal for financial assistance from a foreign government to subvert the solemn sovereign task of revising our Constitution. If she had nothing to do with it, she should disown it promptly. If she is its occult author, she should rue it publicly.

Several years ago, when the renewal of the Philippine-US Bases Agreement was the issue, senators stood tall to oppose the President's desire. The nation cheered. Revising the Constitution can be more significant and more far-reaching in its effect than the fate of the US Military Bases in the Philippines. Forces within the current administration, in their desire to have their way in the amendatory process, are bent on drowning the Senate in an avalanche of House of Representatives votes. This is a moment when once again senators should stand tall.

Graeco's justice for Haydee

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

WHAT can one from Mindanao say about the late Haydee Yorac? In the Mindanao elimination rounds of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation national essay writing contest, the winning college piece came from 20-year-old Graeco Paul Antipasado of Malaybalay City, an AB International Studies major at Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan. Graeco chose to write about a Filipina whom he described, in his effortless but flowing prose, as an "extraordinary woman."

Graeco's piece is as much a social commentary of our times as it is a fitting and timely paean to Haydee Yorac. In "Doing Justice for Haydee," Graeco writes:

"I have always believed that writing a piece about a person whom one deeply admires carries with it the risk as well as the fear that the finished product may not serve the subject any justice. But looking back at the life and times of this extraordinary woman, there probably isn't a single piece of work that would give her any justice. But then again, to let the story of her career and crusades go untold would ironically be an unacceptable injustice.

"The many battles of Haydee Yorac have been exactly just that, an often lonesome war against government inefficiency, dishonesty and corruption, and she has waged it on many fronts. Feisty, formidable, uncompromising, tough are only some of the words attached to her larger than life persona. But if we use the English dictionary, I could only come up with two words that would serve Atty. Yorac right: public servant.

"Service has been something I've never come to associate with government, self-service perhaps. For me, the ultimate instrument for good had transformed into this monster on the verge to eat our country whole. Up until I knew she existed, the fight against the evils of government has always been for me a battle being waged in vain. But Atty. Yorac, whose dogged resolve coupled with nerves of steel, has demonstrated that she's not only fighting in battle, she's actually winning it. In 2004, the Sandiganbayan gave the PCGG an astounding victory by awarding to the government billions of pesos worth of shares in United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corporation, bought using the coco levy funds. Previous to that, the PCGG had recovered some $684 million worth of Marcos' Swiss bank deposits...

"It's safe to say once more that Filipinos have finally found a very likely defender in Haydee Yorac. On a more personal level, I've once again come across someone [with] whom I could place all my hopes and optimism, the difference this time, is that I know she won't let me down. I don't even think she is capable. In all her years, Haydee Yorac has always demanded honesty from everybody inasmuch as she demanded it on herself. Whether in public service or in private practice, Atty. Yorac always brought with her, as her Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service citation reads, an 'exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law in the Philippines.'

"Haydee's mother had once said that she 'always taught her children to do the right thing.' There is elegance in simplicity, and by those few words, Mrs. Yorac had, wittingly or unwittingly set the path for Atty. Yorac's implacable crusade against deceit in any form. Whether training our future lawyers at the University of the Philippines or reforming our electoral system as head of the Commission of Elections, or recovering ill-gotten wealth as chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Governance, the woman, who once understatedly called herself 'a good enough lawyer,' has unflinchingly and without fail, always done 'the right thing.'

"I'd give a million dollars in exchange for a memory of a time when I was genuinely proud of my leaders. I've come to a point where the repeated disappointments and disillusionment have become such a way of life that I am, simply put, jaded and numb. Yet Haydee Yorac has always sought to remind me that government is inherently noble and that those who run it recklessly should not be left alone to wreak their havoc but fought with unbridled obsession and steadfast commitment. Even from her sickbed, Atty. Yorac's dedication to the cause of justice never wavered; on the contrary, cancer has only doubled her resolve. When this President appointed questionable individuals to the board of the San Miguel Corporation, the perilously ailing Atty. Yorac was the first who rushed to condemn it.

"Her decision to retire from the public sphere has once again put my confidence in government in serious jeopardy. In fact, the entire nation felt as if (it has) lost a best friend in government. And I cannot say with certainty if there will even be another Haydee Yorac. For now, I can only hold out hope and optimism, because that is what Atty. Yorac has reignited in me. I owe it to her and to every single public servant out there, who in spite of the temptations and lures of dishonesty and personal gain, continue in the noble and daunting task of trying to earn the public trust our government desperately seeks and providing for us Filipinos devoted service we legitimately deserve.

"It would be presumptuous of me to assume that this piece has eloquently given Haydee Yorac her due. I am not even close. But here I am choosing to write this piece anyway. I never meant nor have I ever thought of this work as a masterpiece destined and built for longevity. No. Atty. Yorac would not want me to write about her because of the prize and the promise of prestige that comes with it but because, like her, I see that there is something truly monumental and valuable, needlessly to say an exhilarating sensation in not only expressing my convictions but more importantly in living them out."

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

An undeniable bias

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

I AM THANKFUL THAT FORMER PRESIDENT Estrada took the time to write in reaction to my Aug. 12 column. He took exception to my saying he threw away his mandate "by failing to justify his human weaknesses with at least a sustained effort to do the work he was hired to do." I agree with the former president that, as he said, he "never pretended to be a saint"; and I would add, that is why so many, not only in the masses but also in our broader society, held—and hold—him in the deepest affection, to the extent that they still trust him.

So what did I mean by his throwing away his mandate? His genial nature and his trust in his friends and subordinates were not matched by their loyalty to him, or to his optimistic view on life, or to his faith in the people. The result: Those he accused of being determined to oust him from office from day one of his administration were emboldened; the broader public was given room to consider if there was a factual basis to the accusations against him; and finally, his senatorial allies turned what could have been a means to achieve his vindication into a spark for popular outrage. His decision to permit the writing of a vague statement announcing his decision to vacate the Palace, I have said, was also a supreme disservice to the country—for either he should have resigned for the sake of peace, or gone down fighting. But this is just my view, made, of course, without the complications that afflict a president's thoughts during a time of crisis. Mr. Estrada's decision may have been as simple as not wanting to be responsible for a bloodbath at the Palace gates; and for a leader, that is as good and genuine a reason as any.

I have been careful in my writings, both in this paper, the Free Press, and before that, in the Today newspaper, to temper any criticism of the former president, out of respect for him as a person (back when he held the highest office in the land and now even though he no longer holds that exalted office). In fact, I insisted that he be given recognition in the Palace, back when I was working there. I did so, too, in private, by objecting to his arrest and incarceration, a position which friends from civil society found scandalous. He was arrested: the public erupted in outrage.

Estrada remains in detention when his case should have been decided by now—either in his favor (thus allowing him to demand and receive an apology from the country for the wrong done to him), or against him (thus putting political and legal closure to his case).

My views may be old-fashioned: whether as president or former president, Mr. Estrada is entitled to respect not just for him but also for his voters. And personally, I will always be profoundly touched by his mother's kindness, despite her age and infirmity, in condoling with my family when my father died; and her great closeness to my mother.

The former president, in his letter, points to new information that indicates he was the victim of a conspiracy, into which many sincere Filipinos might have been duped at that time. I can only add my observations, as someone who once supported President Macapagal-Arroyo and now finds himself calling for her resignation. My observation is that the former president is absolutely correct in suggesting, at the very least, that he has been the victim of a double standard. The double standard is patent, and it requires of those who went against him to reflect on whether or not he has been unfairly treated by history and the law. That double standard permits no mitigating circumstances for a president (Mr. Estrada) who was bold enough to embrace the masses, while giving every possible leeway to a president (Ms Arroyo) who uses the masses as a threat to frighten her social equals.

My ultimate point in that column was: the defect of the present Constitution has been to deny presidential candidates the means to achieve a clear majority, without which presidential government is untenable. If a run-off election had been held between Joseph Estrada and Jose de Venecia, for example, what would have been the result? A clear winner; and little or no excuse to say that more people were against an elected president, than those who voted for him. Furthermore, the "Blueprint for a Viable Philippines," an outstanding effort to chart a new direction for the country, will encounter resistance for no other reason than that the former president is supporting it.

Time heals all wounds and brings forth information that allows us to reflect that our views today may have to change when we get to know more about what really happened yesterday. Mr. Estrada is confident that he will be vindicated in time; but whether or not he will be, one thing is true: the Philippines was a far more hopeful place, a country much more united than it has been since he left the Palace. The country, however, is still seeking the ultimate closure. If Estrada did not plunder the country, then his lapses in judgment—from the initial proposal to honor Ferdinand Marcos with a state burial in the Libingan ng mga Bayani, to his lack of interest in paperwork, his lashing out at the media critical of him, and so on—would be just that: lapses in judgment, but not criminal acts. And he would have the unquestionable right to say, not just to his supporters who have remained loyal, but also to the entire country, that his lapses in judgment did not, at least, equal those of his successor in grievousness. This early on, I will say this: Joseph Estrada's greatest crime was that he would not be a hypocrite. He was a traitor to his class. Which says many negative things about his class, but nothing negative about him.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

The Filipina nannies as surrogate parents

COMMENTARY

Isabel T. Escoda

IT'S not often that a Filipino nanny becomes like a mother and father to the foreign child she cares for. This happened recently to two Filipinas who worked for a wealthy American family in Hong Kong. When the father was murdered, his wife was accused of killing him. Soon after the murder of investment banker Robert Kissell in Nov. 2, 2003, his wife Nancy was taken into custody. The couple's three small children were then whisked away by relatives to the United States, along with their two nannies, Conchita and Maximina Macaraeg.

The incident highlighted the image of the Filipino nanny as a substitute parent to her charges. The sensational trial of this high-profile murder case recently ended in Hong Kong's Court of First Instance, with the jury unanimously declaring Nancy Kissell guilty of murder and the judge meting out a life sentence. Presented during the 67-day trial was overwhelming evidence that she had murdered her husband.

Robert Kissell was a top executive of the Merrill Lynch investment bank. He was an archetypically ambitious, hard-driving individual, whose marriage had been unraveling before his murder. He had told friends he planned to divorce his wife Nancy because of her affair with a man in the United States. In early 2003, during the SARS epidemic in Hong Kong, she fled with her children and a nanny to their home in Vermont. There she started an affair with a handyman hired to repair their TV set, something that continued by telephone after she returned to Hong Kong—their numerous extended calls were later traced by investigators.

The trial, which transfixed Hong Kong's expatriate community, saw Nancy admitting to killing her husband in self-defense, because he had repeatedly threatened and abused her. Accused during questioning of having drugged Robert before bludgeoning him, she would often lapse into amnesia.

It's presumed that Robert's parents will arrange for the future care of the Kissell children (two girls and a boy aged 9, 6 and 3 at the time of the murder) while custody is being discussed. And it seems natural that Conchita and Maximina would continue to be involved in their care.

During the trial, the two Filipinas were summoned back to Hong Kong to testify. With the help of an Ilocano interpreter, Conchita said she saw no signs of violence between the couple (a testimony which didn't support Nancy's claim of abuse), but she noted that the couple were having problems with the marriage because "there was no sweetness anymore" between them. She also reported that during their stay in Vermont, the handyman would go to the house in the evenings, supposedly to check the TV, and would spend the night—she revealed that one of the girls once woke her up at night, unable to find her mother.

The most damning part of Conchita's testimony was about Nancy telling her not to tidy up the master bedroom, which was kept locked for the next three days after Robert's "disappearance." Nancy apparently spent two nights with her husband's corpse, wrapping it in a carpet and removing traces of blood from the room, after which she called for workmen to move the tied rolled-up carpet to an outside storeroom.

The Kissells were a wealthy Jewish couple, and Robert's job earned him top wages at his bank, which entitled them to live in one of Hong Kong's most luxurious complexes. His shocked Merrill Lynch colleagues declared he was a devoted father, while Nancy's friends said she was equally devoted to her kids—though one revealed that she was a spendthrift and had once paid HK$5,000 to have her hair styled.

Hong Kong newspapers kept the public riveted on the steamy murder saga as the trial unfolded with testimonies and evidence. One of the Kissells' neighbors mentioned having taken his daughter, on the day of the murder, to play with the Kissell girls. He was given a milkshake by Nancy, who had also made one for Robert. He said the drink tasted strange and caused him to pass out briefly by the time he returned home.

The prosecution painstakingly marshaled the evidence, showing how Nancy had laced the milkshakes with drugs; after he passed out in their bedroom, she bludgeoned Robert to death with a metal heirloom. She later claimed she had used it in self-defense because he had tried to rape her and then attack her with a baseball bat—a piece of evidence presumed to have been planted by her later in the bedroom.

During her grilling, Nancy claimed she was often sodomized by Robert. She made a point of going to the doctor some days before the murder, and went to the police on the day of the murder to claim she had been beaten up by her husband who, she said, had disappeared. Her lawyer's defense did not sway the jury.

After the trial, the dead banker's father said his younger granddaughter read the news of the murder on the Internet and told him, "Mommy killed Daddy. I don't want to see her again." Soon after the murder, he said he cried with his eldest granddaughter, then 9, after he informed her that her "Daddy had died" after her parents had had a fight.

The Kissell kids are now in the temporary care of the estranged wife of Robert's brother in Connecticut, who is himself in jail, having been charged with embezzlement. The fact that Conchita and Maximina are the kids' link to their past life in Hong Kong is obvious. They probably have children of their own in the Philippines (Maximina is Conchita's sister-in-law), but they may henceforth be fully engaged in the crucial care of their charges, helping them survive and minimize their trauma. It's a burden the two Filipinas will surely bear with much love.

Isabel T. Escoda has written about Filipinos in Hong Kong in her books, "Letters from Hong Kong," "Hong Kong Postscript" and "Pinoy Abroad," her latest.

THEY SAID

Values education

"If you feed them with positive things like good values, then they will grow up with those in mind and they will never part with it. It will be their guiding principles and their decisions will be based on these values."

—Elementary school teacher Julia R. Capulong, stressing the importance of values education

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No brain drain here, there are just no jobs

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THERE IS NO BRAIN DRAIN IN OUR country. We have more than enough professionals and technical people around but there are no jobs available for them. Even though thousands of Filipinos are leaving the country for better-paying jobs abroad, the number of professionals who remain is enough to fill in the positions left vacant. The government is not capable of doing any of the suggestions in the editorial ("Plugging the drain," PDI, 8/9/05), even for the long term.

Wake up. We are definitely aware of what's going on right now in our country. This government is hopeless. For decades, we have been wishing and wanting the government to do all these things. Its failure to deliver on the people's expectations is precisely the reason why Filipinos are leaving our beloved country and their families behind. Leaving is actually a personal sacrifice and a way of helping our economy. Most of these professionals and technical people served the country for a number of years before working abroad.

One of the requirements of getting an overseas job is several years of experience. With regard to the nurses, thousands are graduating yearly and they are more than enough to fill any position open in our hospitals. Most of these registered nurses are even unemployed because there are not enough positions available in our hospitals and even clinics. There is no brain drain. There are simply no jobs.

—EDILBERTO CRUZ,
edilcruz@yahoo.com

Quashing of impeachment complaint an empty victory

I CANNOT HELP BUT AGREE WITH Amando Doronila when he wrote in his column (PDI, 9/2/05) that "The virtual death of the complaints in the (justice) committee is not without dire political consequences to the President.

"The quashing of the complaints is an empty victory for the administration. It merely demonstrated that the administration has the capacity to deploy the advantages of the incumbency to save the President from being unseated.

"Until the President stands trial where she can defend herself and where it can be shown that the accusations are false and do not constitute impeachable offenses, it would be hard for her to regain public confidence and reestablish the legitimacy of her government."

If I were President Macapagal-Arroyo, I would voluntarily resign.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

Dreaming in a sea of lies

WE START THEM YOUNG WITH LITTLE LIES—that Santa Claus will bring them gifts if they are good, but we know there is no Santa Claus. We start them young with tales of evil spirits coming to get them if they cry, but we know evil spirits won't be coming for them.

We tell them myths of truth and justice when they grow older, but do our courts deliver truth and justice? Of course not, for justice delayed is justice denied. What happened to the cases filed against Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 or was it 1987?

We live in a sea of lies and we expect our children to tell the truth?

Let us throw all the myths and legends, let us have justice delivered instantly, and we will have the truth. Otherwise, we are just dreaming.

—RODOLFO KINTANAR,
rckint@hotmail.com

Rare and precious gem

THE MILLIONS OF COCONUT FARMERS will always be grateful to Haydee Yorac for all the good things she did in connection with the efforts to recover the coco levy funds. She will always be remembered as someone who fought for justice. It was her dedication and unwavering quest for justice that enabled the Presidential Commission on Good Government to finally win cases involving the coco levy funds.

It was a sad day for coconut farmers when she resigned as PCGG chair. With her death, no one can imagine their grief. With the way the PCGG is handling the coco levy issue right now, the farmers can only hope that Ms Yorac were still alive to remind the PCGG people to do their job and "let justice be done though the heavens fall."

May her life and legacy serve as an example to public officials who cling to their posts but do nothing good for the people. May the justices in the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court realize that their rulings on the coco levy issues have been effectively ignored by people, including some in the PCGG and a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, claiming that such rulings are not yet final and, therefore, a compromise is the best option.

In a country full of cheaters and liars and corrupt public officials, Haydee Yorac is a rarity, a precious gem that will always be treasured by the people she served so well and so faithfully.

—LIZA C. CONDINO,
program officer 2,
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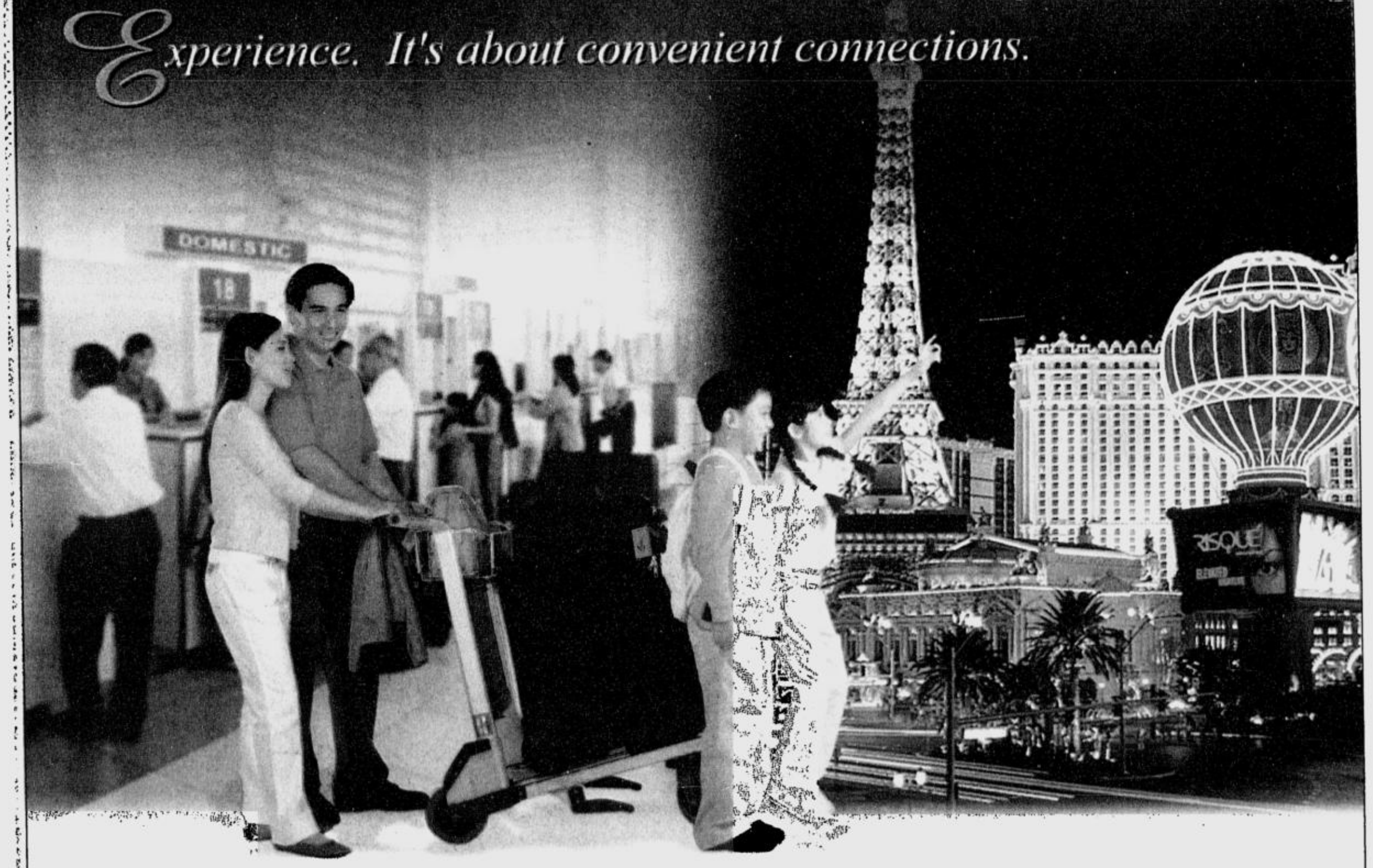

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Scam delays Aurora folk's resettlement

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES in the purchase of a 1.8-hectare property and land claims by farmers have delayed the resettlement of more than 1,000 families left homeless by last year's flash floods and landslides in Dingalan, Aurora.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed the construction of new houses in Barangay Caragsakan has been stopped for more than a month now since the town council endorsed on Aug. 1 a resolution asking the Ombudsman to investigate Mayor Jaime Ylarde, budget officer Esther Felipe and other officials for the supposed anomalous acquisition of that land, called "Lot No. 28."

Ylarde reaction

Ylarde, reached through his mobile phone on Saturday, called the transactions "above board."

The council's resolution said the transactions lacked a receipt confirming the payment of capital gains tax, a certification by geologists that the area was suitable for resettlement, a clearance from the Department of Land Reform, a certification from the provincial appraisal committee on the correct market value of the land and a land reclassification approval from the council.

The council said it was Felipe, not the Registry of Deeds, who certified the original and transfer land titles. The original owner no longer existed at the time of the deal and did not execute a deed of absolute sale.

Occupied

Tenants have occupied and improved the area since 1996 contrary to a claim in the alleged fake deed of sale that the land has no tenants.

The transactions, the council said, started on June 2 when Ylarde requested for authority to negotiate and buy a land and ended on June 21 when at least P1.53 million was withdrawn from the bank and paid in two checks that same day.

The payment was made even as the realignment of the money from the 20-percent development fund and supplemental budget had yet to be approved by the provincial board, Councilor Shiela Taay, who filed the resolution, said on Saturday.

The provincial board, on Aug. 17, found several requirements missing in the deal.

Evaluation

It confirmed that the purchase did not undergo evaluation by the provincial appraisal committee, that the Registry of Deeds has the sole authority to certify land titles, and that the deed of sale should bear the signature of the vendee.

The provincial board also said it has not reviewed the realignment of funds, appropriations and site development for the area.

Ylarde blamed his political foes for delaying the project's second phase.

"We have only managed to resettle about 100 families. There's lack of land. And there's these so called anomalies. What anomalies are they talking about?" the mayor said, referring to a graft case that he said has "no basis."

He said he wanted the resettlement plan to proceed while he answered the complaints against him.

Two more graft complaints are pending against him at the Office of the Ombudsman. These involve the alleged misuse of public funds for relief and rehabilitation projects intended for calamity victims. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MEMORIES of the tragedy are still fresh in the minds of Aurora residents. At the height of the flooding last year, countless pieces of logs drifted into the communities and wreaked havoc. PDI PHOTO

Trader urges review of terminal fee hike

OZAMIZ CITY—THE BUSINESS sector here has urged the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to spare passengers of a ferry service plying between Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte provinces from a planned increase in terminal fees.

Former vice mayor Elvira Tan, president of the Ozamiz City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said imposing the increase would unduly increase the travel cost of people who cross Panguil Bay to do business in the city.

The ferry service, which is operated by a private company, is the principal means of traveling across the narrow strip of sea. Its usual passengers include rank-and-file government employees, students and small traders.

Cost of travel has gone up by 21 percent beginning August after the ferry company imposed a 25-percent hike in fare that brought it to P15 per passenger from P12.

If the planned increase is imposed, cost of travel would climb further to 29 percent above its level in July.

Based on an estimate of the PPA's port management office (PMO) here, in a given year, some 1.1 million passengers are expected to cross the bay from here to Lanao del Norte through the ferry service.

Ozamiz officials proposed a raise in terminal fee from the current P2 per ferry passenger to P3. This does not include 10-percent value added tax.

Tan said the PPA should not raise additional revenues solely from passengers of inter-island vessels which are planned to be levied additional P5 each in terminal fees from the current P10.

An estimated 312,000 passengers embark from here for Visayas and Luzon.

The PPA expects to raise an additional P3 million in revenues from the planned increases with terminal fees from inter-island vessel passengers accounting for about 73 percent of the total revenue.

Through the added revenues, the PPA hopes to survive an operating loss that it suffered in 2004.

Further, the increase was planned to recover funds used to buy a baggage X-ray scanner and walk-through metal detector installed as a security measure against terror attacks.

Tan has called on the PPA to review its projected expenses for the passenger terminal operations to find ways to reduce them.

She particularly pointed to the costs of janitorial and security services to be incurred, which she thinks are way above local going rates. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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- BUSINESS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES — October 5 - November 16, 2005 Wed. 6:00PM-8:30 PM
- CONSUMER MOTIVATION IN MARKETING — October 5 - November 16, 2005 Wed. 6:00PM-8:30PM
- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT — October 6 - November 10, 2005 Thurs. 6:00PM-8:30 PM
- MANAGEMENT CONTROL AND INFORMATION SYSTEM — October 7 - November 11, 2005 Friday 6:00PM-8:30 PM
- MANAGERIAL PROBLEM SOLVING ANALYSIS & DECISION MAKING — October 8 - November 12, 2005 Saturday 1:00PM-3:30 PM
- INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS — October 8 - November 12, 2005 Saturday 3:30PM-6:00 PM
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Crackdown on illegal software use forces computer shops to close

AT LEAST 50 OPERATORS OF Internet cafés in Cotabato City were forced to close shop on Friday in the face of a directive from the Optical Media Board (OMB) requiring the use of licensed software.

The same thing happened in the cities of Malaybalay, General Santos, Puerto Princesa and Baguio.

In Puerto Princesa City, panic struck some employees of government and private offices and businesses as the OMB, the police and the National Bureau of Investigation started raiding establishments suspected of using unlicensed software.

About two weeks ago, word spread that the OMB, led by its chair, actor Edu Manzano, would raid Internet cafés without licensed Microsoft software.

As a result, many closed for days to replace their unlicensed software with open systems like Linux.

Also starting Sept. 12, local government offices in Puerto Princesa stopped using some of their computers, except for those with licensed software.

Appeal

Joseph Coloso, president of the Cotabato City Internet Café Association, said the closure was temporary while they waited for the board's action on their resolution appealing for a moratorium.

Under the government's anti-piracy law, Internet café owners are required to have their operating system licensed at the price of almost P7,000 per unit, said Coloso, who felt that the amount is too big a burden for them.

Coloso said the OMB's focus on Internet cafés is discriminatory since many government and non-government offices and homes have computers that use the same operating system as theirs.

The group, Coloso said, planned to ask the mayor and city councilors to help alleviate their plight through legislation.

In Malaybalay City, Manny Cudal, president of the Bukidnon Internet Operators Society, told the INQUIRER that almost all Internet cafés closed shop on Friday to avoid the risk of being raided.

Cudal said they would ask the authorities to give them enough time to comply with the requirements on the licensing of these softwares and to appeal for the reduction of the payments for the licensing into the academic rates since their clients are mostly students.

In General Santos City, Internet cafés closed shop for two days after the NBI conducted a raid early morning Tuesday and confiscated computer units which were illegally using Microsoft software.

But some cafés resumed operations on Saturday, this time with the Microsoft software already deleted from their computer units.

Puerto Princesa

Provincial information officer Rolando Bonoan Jr. said in a radio interview that the provincial government was negotiating with the OMB and the software company to facilitate the licensing.

On Sept. 16, the day the authorities were supposed to start their raids, most Internet cafés were closed.

Some put signs like "temporarily closed," or "under renovation."

An Internet café owner said because of the crackdown, he has lost a lot of customers.

The government, he said, should help the small entrepreneurs like him because they are barely surviving these days.

He said they were willing to pay the license provided the cost is not too high.

Most software being used by Internet cafés is Microsoft, which is reportedly asking P8,000 per unit for license.

This, he said, is too much. They would rather close their business as they will not be able to recoup the cost even if they increased their Internet fees.

In an interview with the dyPR radio, Manzano said they didn't mean to strip the Internet owners of their business.

Manzano, who was in Palawan two weeks ago to brief local authorities, said they were doing this because the Business Software Alliance (BSA) has already lost millions of dollars to piracy.

He denied that there was pressure from the United States government and big software companies for the sudden crackdown.

"We are not favoring one country [because even] Filipino-registered software [are included]," he said.

There were also exemptions on the raid. Computer games were still allowed as well as those software used for educational purposes.

Those caught using unlicensed software will be fined, closed or criminally liable, depending on the situation, Manzano said.

Hypocrisy

In Baguio City, owners of computer shops have accused officials of the OMB and the government of hypocrisy following a national crackdown on commercial firms using unlicensed software.

In letters addressed to Manzano and NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, the businessmen said law enforcers refused to include government agencies using unlicensed software in their operations.

Manzano's nationwide crackdown complies with the demands of international anti-piracy groups, which have kept the Philippines in its world blacklist of countries violating intellectual property rights (IPR).

But Gerry Mayona, who initiated the petition among computer shop owners, said various government agencies should also be cited for violating provisions of the law governing IPR.

Mayona said Baguio businessmen, in letters sent out by facsimile on Sept. 15, were asking the government to stop the crackdown until it also complied with the IPR law.

He said all of the city's computer-service and retail enterprises stopped operations on Sept. 15, after news about an NBI crackdown requested by the BSA leaked out.

Mayona said Manzano's Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team gave computer owners a 30-day reprieve on Aug. 16 to secure licenses before it penalizes IPR violators.

In their letters, the businessmen acknowledged that the raids would correct the country's reputation "as one of the piracy centers of Asia."

Complaints

But they complained that computer retailers who have sold millions of personal computers to residents and companies rarely install licensed software.

"In Baguio City alone, there are more than 100 computer shops and thousands of computer owners, but... most of these computers being used by private or government agencies do not have licensed software installed [in their hard disks]," the letters said.

Mayona said a certain software firm still retailed its most popular software from P8,500 to P10,800 for each computer unit, when the demand should have resulted in lower prices.

"We are being blackmailed into buying licensed software at this high cost, and we are now told that there isn't even enough supply to cover each computer that is being rented out by computer shops," he said.

He said NBI agents refused to heed the demands of businessmen who challenged the coverage of their operations.

"One agent said government agencies which use unlicensed software are covered by some kind of amnesty," Mayona said.

Instead of scaring commercial firms into abiding by IPR laws the businessmen asked OMB to help them secure cheaper software supply.

Mayona said his computer shop has started replacing its computers' unlicensed software with those that can be downloaded from the Internet.

"Most clients are not familiar with the free software, but I have no recourse because I can't afford the licensed brand software. Unfortunately, even the free software cannot be used to interface with many Internet services such as on line games, so I may lose clients," he said. *Charlie C. Señase, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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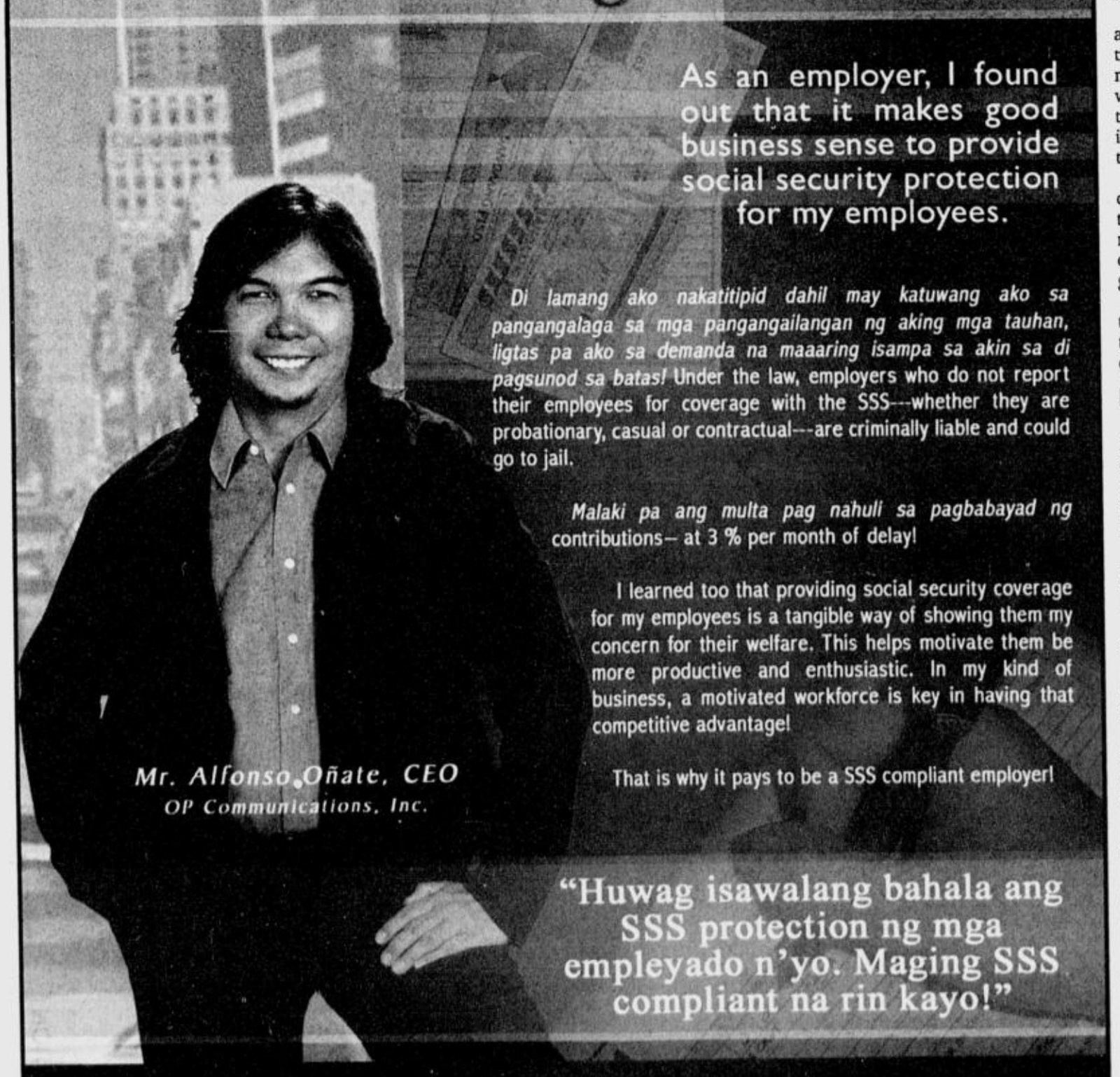

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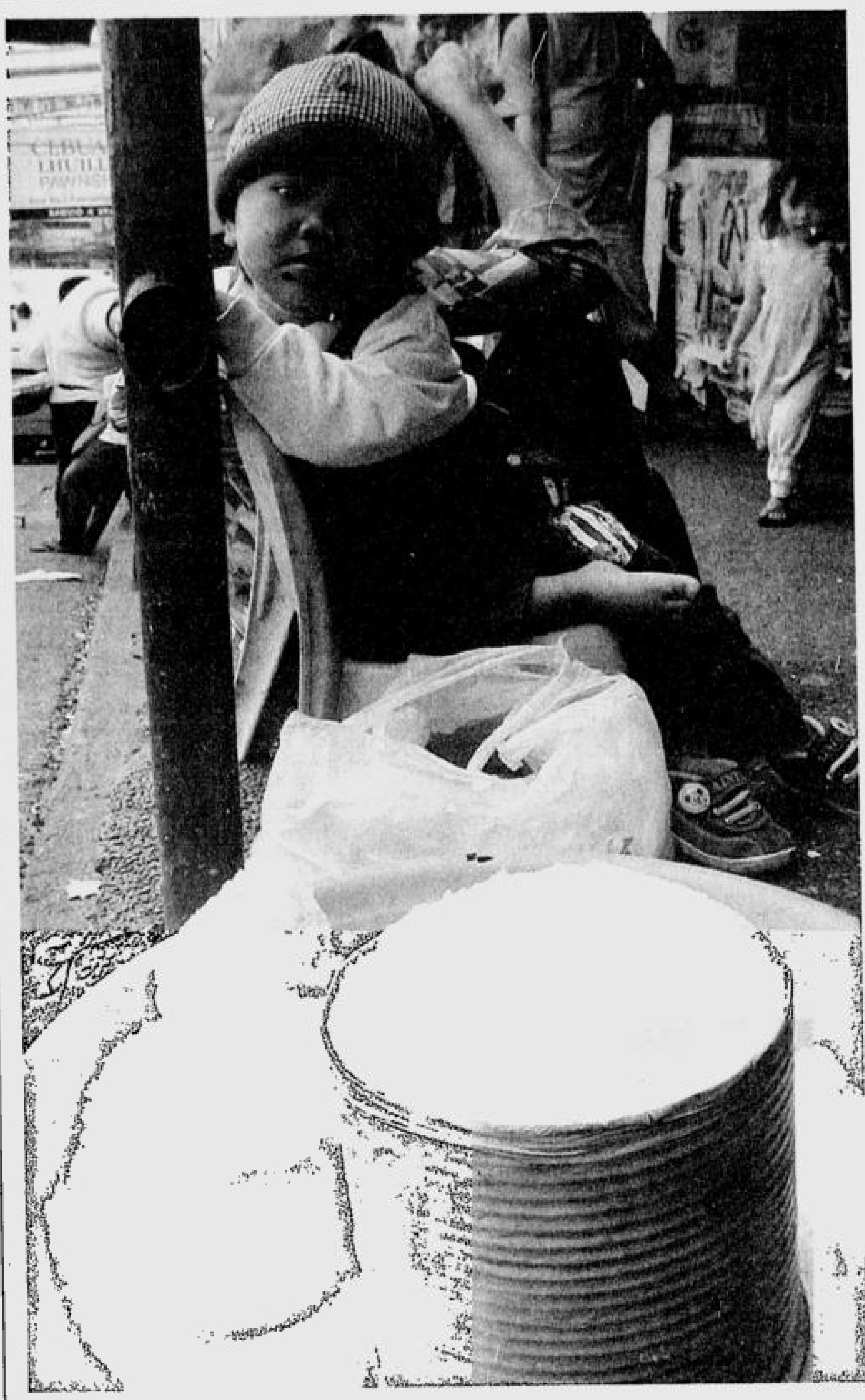

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A salt vendor brings along her child at the Baguio City public market.

Zambales power co-op reduces rates, but says it's temporary

IBA, ZAMBALES—The Zambales Electric Cooperative I here has given its consumers a breather when it lowered its power rates by an average of 65 centavos per kilowatt hour starting this month.

Rene Divino, Zameco I general manager, said from a high of P7.59 per kWh, their cooperative's rate now stands at P6.94 per kWh, the lowest in Central Luzon.

Divino, however, said the relief was just temporary because the implementation of the value added tax law would increase power rates in the next few months.

He said a petition filed by members of the cooperative and that was endorsed by Zameco I board officials prompted the rate drop.

"Without it, there could have been no point of reference, much less guidance, by the Energy Regulatory Commission to bring down current costs here," Divino said. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Poor DPWH work seen cause of dike breach

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—MAYOR JERRY Pelayo of Candaba, Pampanga, said the Department of Public Works and Highways did a substandard repair work on sections of a dike in the province's fourth district, causing the structure to breach on Friday and endanger at least 10 villages.

Pelayo on Saturday said the P15 million that the DPWH used to repair portions of the 38-km Arnedo dike was wasted after these were eroded by floodwaters.

But Ramon Aquino, DPWH director in Central Luzon, said only the Barangay Sto. Tomas segment of the dike in San Luis town has been eroded as of Saturday. A section in Barangay Sta. Catalina was also being fortified with sand bags.

All other concrete portions in Apalit, San Simon and Candaba that were plugged with sand bags last year have withstood the strong current at the Pampanga River since last Tuesday's rains, Aquino said.

The DPWH, he said, was ready for any contingency and had set aside a backup supply of sand and sacks.

Aquino said the DPWH continued to do emergency measures despite the advice of the agency's Japanese consultants to abandon the dike that was built in 1939 and to focus engineering efforts on the Arayat-Apalit levee that was built in the 1970s and parallel to the Arnedo dike.

The repairs were done to protect more than 25,000 residents living along the crucial portions of the dike or between the dike and the levee, Aquino said.

Relocation sites have been proposed for them as many have defied previous advice to evacuate, he said.

Pelayo, speaking to the INQUIRER by phone, blamed Pampanga Rep. Anna York Bondoc for "meddling" in the DPWH's decision to spend the money on emergency repairs.

"They looked very substandard to me and it seemed we have wasted government money," Pelayo said, referring to the damaged portions in Lanang, Candaba, and Sto. Tomas, San Luis.

What Pelayo, spokesperson of the Pampanga Mayors' League, proposed to do last year was for the DPWH to build a cut-off channel for the Mandasig dike in Candaba to ease the pressure on the Arnedo dike.

Board Member Nestor Tolentino, speaking on behalf of Bondoc who joined President Macapagal-Arroyo in the trip to the United States, defended Bondoc's lobby, saying the repaired portions continued to protect the villagers. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Scholarships offered to fill need for docs

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE province of Oriental Negros is offering 10 scholarships for the Silliman University College of Medicine in answer to the exodus of physicians-turned-nurses to the United States.

Gov. George Arnaiz announced the availability of the scholarships in a press conference last week.

There are four students who have availed themselves of the scholarship and are now in their first year. Each student gets free tuition, board and lodging and an allowance of P2,500 per month.

Under the terms of the scholarship, the doctors will serve the province for eight years after graduation. They should also pay back the expenses of the provincial government should they discontinue their studies.

Arnaiz said there are many vacancies for doctors in the province's four community hospitals.

When informed that the province will lose three more doctors who will be flying to the United States soon to work as nurses, Arnaiz said "that's a big problem."

Six doctors-turned-nurses had already left the province earlier this year for greener pasture.

Dr. Ely Villapando, provincial health officer, told reporters earlier that the Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital, with only a 250-bed capacity, is attending to between 350 and 380 patients at any given time and needs 80 doctors. It only has 43.

Of the 43 doctors, only seven are not enrolled in nursing.

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Rights, benefits sought for 1.5M housemaids

From page A1

Skyline Riverbend Hotel in Marikina City.

At least 200 housemaids are expected to attend the country's first National Domestic Workers Summit, whose guest speakers include Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, antislavery advocates here and abroad, and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With the conference and pending legislation pushing for institutionalized salary schemes, work hours, benefits and social security, hopefully, the stigma of the traditionally lowly *kasambahay* (household companions) would be gone for good.

It's a sector that definitely has the numbers. According to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations, there were at least 584,000 domestic workers in the country. Of this number, 332,000 were "stay-ins," or household helpers who lived with the families they worked for. The rest were so-called "stay-outs," who went home to their own families.

Data from the National Statistics Office's Labor Force Survey revealed a higher figure—there were 1.5 million domestic workers in private households nationwide. The International Labor Organization, however, pegged the number of housemaids in the country at between 600,000 and 2.5 million.

Batas Kasambahay Act

According to the Social Weather Stations' Third Quarter 2005 Survey released to media on Friday, a large majority of Filipinos supported proposed laws such as Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's Senate Bill No. 1692 or the "Batas Kasambahay" Act of 2004. The bill sets the rights and privileges domestic helpers ought to enjoy from their employers and the government.

SWS also said that 49 percent of household heads interviewed between Aug. 26 and Sept. 5 were aware of such bills, and that nine out of 10 respondents supported them.

The practice of hiring household help was more common in the capital.

Four percent of Metro Manila respondents said they employed maids, while only 2 percent of nationwide respondents said they had household help.

A maid in every household

In Metro Manila among Classes ABC, 8 percent said they had at least one household help. In Class D, 2 percent said they had at least one housemaid, while in Class E, one percent said they had one domestic worker.

The median number of helpers was one per household nationwide, across socioeconomic classes. In Metro Manila, the median was slightly higher at two per household.

SWS conducted face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults from Metro Manila, Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Sampling error margins were at plus or minus 3 percentage points for national percentages, and plus or minus 6 percentage points for area percentages.

All interviews outside Metro Manila were completed during Aug. 26-31. In Metro Manila, 259 interviews were done between Aug. 26-31 while the remaining 41 interviews were completed between Sept. 1-5.

The survey items pertaining to housemaids were commissioned by the Visayan Forum Foundation, the conveners of the summit which starts Wednesday.

The conference is expected to muster support for a Senate bill which would set salary standards and other "protection" measures against a vulnerable labor sector that is also a major segment of the country's migrant workers.

In a press briefing on Friday, an advocacy group reminded "DH" applicants both here and abroad to evaluate the kind of person or family they may work for to avoid being abused or denied their basic rights to decent treatment.

"They should look for employers who can give them enough time for themselves so they can have ample rest or engage in self-improvement," said Cecilia Flores Oebanda, president of the Visayan Forum and one of the summit conveners.

One million signatures

Ideally, she said, an employer should give a domestic helper a free day to attend nonformal education courses, usually on Sundays.

Oebanda said the event would also see the presentation of "a million signatures" urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as urgent Batas Kasambahay Act of 2004.

Among the bill's key provisions is to set the "benchmark" monthly salary of P2,500 for those hired in the Philippines, and another requiring employers to register their helpers with the Social Security System and the state's medical insurance arm PhilHealth, she said.

The Batas Kasambahay Act and a similar bill, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel's Senate Bill No. 1678, had both been through the first reading and were referred to the labor, employment and human resources development committee on Aug. 25.

Similar bills had also been proposed in the House of Representatives, such as House Bill No. 8862 filed by Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile in 1999.

Archbishop happy 'jueteng' has stopped

From page A1

the Senate investigation the extent of jueteng operations under the Arroyo administration.

Their explosive testimonies set the stage for former Malacañang operative Michaelangelo Zuce to squeal on the alleged jueteng payoffs to election officers in the President's La Vista subdivision home a few months before the presidential election.

In the incident, several election officials allegedly had dinner with the President and were later given envelopes stuffed with money by Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

No arrest

Cruz said he was amazed at how the government supposedly wiped out jueteng without arresting or filing a single criminal case against any of the suspected gambling operators named in the Senate inquiry.

"It would be very hard to concede that as jueteng has practically disappeared, the matter of the intimate connection between jueteng payola and 2004 national elections would also be placed but in the bin of sad memories," he said in a statement.

The prelate said he was still awaiting the Senate's decision on its open-ended investigation of the jueteng scandal.

Two of his former witnesses, Richard Garcia and Demosthenes Riva, backed out amid suspicions that they had been bribed into silence. Witnesses Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor and Sandra Cam vowed to stick it out with the bishop.

'Masiao, loteng'

Cruz challenged the police to also exert efforts to stop other illegal numbers games such as *masiao, loteng* and bookies.

He said a survey conducted by Krusada's different chapters in Luzon and the Visayas from Sept. 10 to 15 confirmed that jueteng operations by big-time operators had stopped.

Krusada is still validating reports that "kangaroo" (small-time) operations continue in some parts of the country, according to the bishop.

Cruz said the Catholic Church would continue to be vigilant against jueteng through its teachings and homilies.

He credited Hagedorn for a job well done. "I hope he will continue eradicating jueteng," he said.

But Cruz said he was dismayed at how Hagedorn, a confessed former jueteng protector, achieved his feat: He simply talked with local executives.

"Would the burial of jueteng also mean the interment of the crime against the poor perpetrated by the infamous jueteng lords?" he asked.

BET COLLECTOR: A thing of the past? PDI PHOTO

"They are still living in peace and with ease. They still remain unaccountable, untouchable."

Financiers

In his statement, Cruz said the government should continue running after jueteng financiers.

Cruz said government officials should maintain the jueteng-free status of their areas "as a matter of duty."

"There were times when jueteng was likewise made to cease but thereafter allowed and even promoted to operate again with a vengeance ... This meant that at will jueteng can be stopped, and at will, too, it can be resurrected," he said.

Cruz was not comfortable with Hagedorn's strategy of pushing other forms of gambling to take the place of jueteng.

The mayor plans to revive the "Small Town Lottery," a combination game first introduced during the Aquino administration. He acknowledged that it was very similar to jueteng, except that it was legal.

Another game similar to jueteng is EZ2, which is being run by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

"They are all gambling, all exploiting the poor, all enriching their operators," the bishop pointed out, saying STL and EZ2 were essentially jueteng hiding "under the mantle of legality."

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Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace
Panibagong Paraan
Development with Equity

In the Philippines, many are excluded from social and economic development because of their disadvantage in terms of income, assets and opportunities. Thus, the need for "Development with Equity", which means reducing inequality in order to provide greater opportunities to those with the least resources. Beyond income distribution, "Development with Equity" is also about greater access to services, infrastructure, power, influence and participation.

Panibagong Paraan (the Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace) is a multi-partner program that encourages and supports innovative ideas to promote "Development with Equity" in the Philippines. The program consists of two competitions:

Expression of Ideas Competition

Share your views on bringing about "Development with Equity"! Entries may be submitted in the form of policy proposals, essays, poetry, art work, song compositions, or multimedia presentations. **Guidelines for the Expression of Ideas Competition will be announced later by the *Panibagong Paraan 2006* Secretariat.**

Project Grants Competition

Put your ideas to action! We are looking for innovative projects that address specific inequity issues. Winners will be provided grant funds of up to P1 million, to implement their projects over a one-year period. **Guidelines for the Project Grants Competition are described below.**

PROJECT GRANTS COMPETITION

Who can apply?

- People's organizations, including community-based groups, sectoral associations and cooperatives
- Non-government organizations, foundations, civic organizations, faith-based and inter-faith organizations, and other civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Private and public research and academic institutions, in partnership with people's organizations or CSOs
- 5th and 6th class municipal LGUs (including barangays therein), in partnership with local people's organizations or CSOs

Panibagong Paraan 2004 *and Global Development Marketplace winners are eligible to apply provided the proposed project is different from the previously-awarded project.*

Categories (Equity issues to be addressed):

- Increasing incomes/income opportunities
- Improving access to social services, infrastructure and utilities (e.g. energy)
- Improving access to/control of land and other assets
- Improving access to/ensuring fairness in market and financial structures and systems
- Strengthening participation in decision-making (voice and influence)
- Improving access to/ensuring fairness in political and justice systems

Special Award Categories:

- Advocacy or Policy/Action Research on Population and Development
- Basic Infrastructure and Equipment for Education or Health

Target Groups

- Indigenous peoples
- Women, men, youth in difficult or disadvantaged situations
- Elderly
- Children
- Persons with disabilities
- People living with HIV/AIDS
- Commercial sex workers
- Farmers and fisherfolk
- Formal and informal laborers, migrant workers
- Communities in remote areas or that are usual victims of disaster

Project ideas will be judged on the basis of:
Innovation, Scalability or Replicability and Potential Impact.

Initial proposals should be in the form of a brief concept paper (maximum of four pages). A multi-sectoral technical working group will evaluate eligible concept papers.

Deadline of Submission : 30 November 2005

Concept papers must be submitted with one or two reference documents (e.g. SEC registration, certification from the local government unit, accreditation with a regulatory agency) establishing proof of the organization's identity. Concept papers in English, Filipino or other major Philippine languages can be sent by mail or hand-delivered to:

***Panibagong Paraan 2006* Secretariat**
23/F Taipan Place, F. Ortigas, Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, 1605 Pasig City.

Announcement of Finalists

Finalists will be notified in February 2006 and will be asked to submit full proposals by April 2006. Finalists will be invited to participate in an Exhibit and Social Policy Forum to be held in May 2006 (details to be announced later). A board of distinguished jurors will determine the winners.

For further information, please:

- Visit our website at ***www.worldbank.org.ph/panibagongparaan***
- Contact the ***Panibagong Paraan 2006* Secretariat** at Tel. Nos. **917-3047** or **637-5855 loc. 3047.**

CONCEPT PAPER FORMAT

Page 1:

ENTRY FOR: (pls. check one)

- ☐ Indicate the specific category: _____
- ☐ Advocacy or Policy/Action Research on Population and Development
- ☐ Basic Infrastructure and Equipment for Education or Health

PROPONENT DETAILS

Name of Proponent Organization/Institution/LGU:
Contact Person/ Position:
Affiliation(s) with any coalition or network (if any):
Contact Details
Address:
Phone/Fax No.:
E-mail:

Name(s) of Partner Organization(s)/Institution(s) (if any):
Contact Person(s):
Contact Details:
Address:
Phone/Fax No.
E-mail:

Title of the Project:

Target Marginalized Group(s)
(Please specify type and number of beneficiaries/participants):

Equity Issue(s) to be Addressed:

Project Implementation Site(s) (Please specify province and municipality):

Project Duration:

Breakdown of Indicative Budget by Major Expense Category:

	Total	Funding Request	Funding Counterpart
Client Cost (Expenses that are directed towards the clients, partners, beneficiaries)			
Project Management Cost			
Capital Outlay (infrastructure, equipment)			
Others			
TOTAL			

Page 2 to 4:

PROJECT QUESTIONS:

1. What is the problem/issue on inequity/exclusion that the project will address? What are the causes/roots of this problem or issue?
2. What are the objectives of the project?
3. Who is/are your target group(s) and how will they benefit from this project? How will this project address inequities, or increase/improve opportunities for the target group(s) to contribute to and share in development?

   For action research projects: How will the research eventually benefit the target group(s)?
4. How did the target group(s) participate in the conceptualization of this project?
5. Will the project contribute to addressing the deeper causes/roots of the problem / issue you have described above? How?
6. Where are the innovations in the proposed project? How is your idea different from existing approaches that are addressing the problem(s)/issue(s)?
7. What are the key outputs expected after six months and after one year? What are the major activities that will be undertaken? Please describe the target group's participation for each major activity.
8. How will this project contribute towards building or strengthening partnerships, particularly those between the target group and other parties?
9. How will your project be sustained even after the grant funding? Will the project/ some project components be taken over by the target group after the one-year project duration? What are these and how will the target group be prepared for taking over?
10. How can the project be scaled up after the project period, and/or replicated in areas with similar conditions?

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Australian Government AusAID · ADB Asian Development Bank · CODE-NGO Caucus of Development NGO Networks · Ensuriate Foundation · League of Corporate Foundations · Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement · UNDP United Nations Development Programme

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2005

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ARROCEROS CONTROVERSY

Defensor keeps hands off park row

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Simply Creative

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT OF Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would not intervene in the dispute between the Manila City government and environmentalists fighting for the preservation of the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor said the contentious issues did not appear to center on the environmental appreciation of the forest park but on the value of the Arroceros Park as an archeological site.

"It's more on the historicity of the area than the harm caused by operations or the raw materials being utilized on the environment," Defensor told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Defensor further said the points being raised by Winner Foundation, manager and developer of the park, were matters that could be easily resolved by the courts.

Tanggol Kalikasan has asked Defensor in a letter to withdraw the certificate of noncoverage given to the Manila City government and issue a cease-and-desist order to stop the construction of an educational facility inside the park.

Lawyer Maria Paz Luna insisted that the National Museum, which has jurisdiction over proclaimed archeological sites, did not give the go signal for the construction of an administrative building of the Manila Division of City Schools.

She said the certification from the National Museum, which is cited as the basis of the CNC issued by the Laguna Lake Development Authority, approved only conditional excavations in the premises.

LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III, however, maintained that he did not see any basis to revoke the CNC issued to the Manila government because of the certification from the National Museum.

"If they (foundation) feel the National Museum did not issue a certification, then this can easily be stopped in the courts," Defensor said.

He, however, said he would ask the LLDA to explain the legal basis of the CNC and reply to the foundation's inquiry on the reasons for exempting the project from conducting an environmental impact assessment.

Defensor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, a proponent of the construction project inside the park, are key allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Atienza has provided much-needed support to Ms Arroyo, especially at the height of calls for her resignation for allegedly rigging the 2004 presidential polls.

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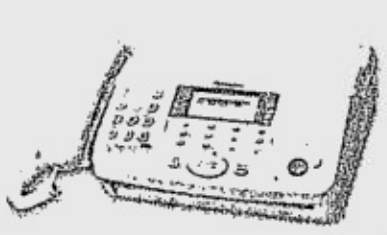
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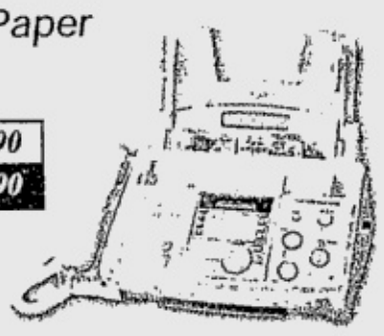

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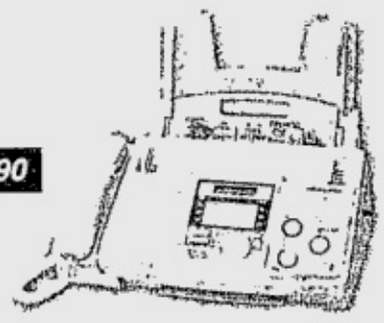
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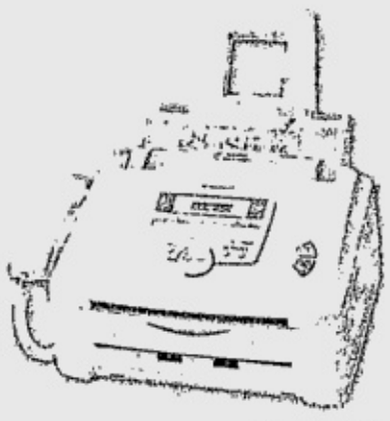
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'Rush to save accident victim may kill him'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FACED WITH A MEDICAL emergency? Don't bring patients to the nearest hospital, a health official said.

Instead, relatives, policemen or rescue officials should bring them to the "nearest appropriate hospital," Department of Health Emergency Management Office officer-in-charge Carmencita Banatin said.

According to her, the rush to bring a victim to just any hospital may put the survival of the patient in jeopardy.

Banatin said there had been many instances when rescue officials rushed patients to a hospital, only to find out that the hospital lacked the facilities needed to treat the victim.

The patients had to be transferred to another hospital causing delay.

"Things could happen during this period of delay. The survival of the patient is at stake," Banatin said.

For instance, those injured in fire incidents should be brought to hospitals capable of treating third-degree burns.

She told rescue officials who attended the relaunch of Patrol 117 Emergency Hotline two weeks ago that they should first coordinate with her department to determine where they could bring the injured.

"We have an operation center which maintains radio contact with all our national hospitals. We can quickly ask if they can accommodate patients with serious injuries," Banatin said.

She also asked local officials and rescue teams to maintain a list of local hospitals specifying their capabilities in their respective areas.

METROBRIEFS

Rob suspect tagged

THE NANNY of the year-old girl shot dead in a robbery in Cainta, Rizal last week has identified one of the three men in the heist, police said. The suspect was identified through a police gallery but Cainta police Chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz declined to release the name of the suspect pending the completion of the investigation of the case. The nanny told police that the suspect in the police gallery "looked similar" to one of the three motorcycle-riding robbers who attacked them on Wednesday morning and killed the child of businessman Eric Guevarra. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Utilities block canals

DON'T block waterways. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) had this message to utility firms, after the agency discovered utility lines passing through and obstruct parts of the metro's drainage system. MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna, head of the agency's flood control operations, said he had sent letters to a private telecommunications firm and a water firm to call their attention to utility lines they had installed along drainages, contrary to established regulations. He asked the firms to relocate their misplaced lines in Manila, Quezon City, and parts of northern metro. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Biker killed in QC

A FATHER was killed while his young son was slightly hurt after their bicycle was bumped by a van along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City before midnight Saturday. Romeo Canelas, 36, a deliveryman at a furniture shop, was on his way home with his 7-year-old son when he made a sudden U-turn near South 6th St., not seeing a van coming from the opposite direction, police said. The van (CRS 470), was being driven by Danilo Perez, 38, who was heading toward Roosevelt Avenue, when he hit the victim's bicycle at 11:20 p.m., said police. Canelas and the boy were thrown three meters from the bicycle. They were rushed to the National Orthopedic Hospital, where the father died. *DJ Yap*

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June 15, 2005	12.0807	14.57%	6.39%

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September 5, 2005	1.1001	8.47%	6.46%
August 15, 2005	1.0967	8.37%	6.14%
July 15, 2005	1.0865	7.89%	5.14%
June 15, 2005	1.0854	8.32%	5.04%

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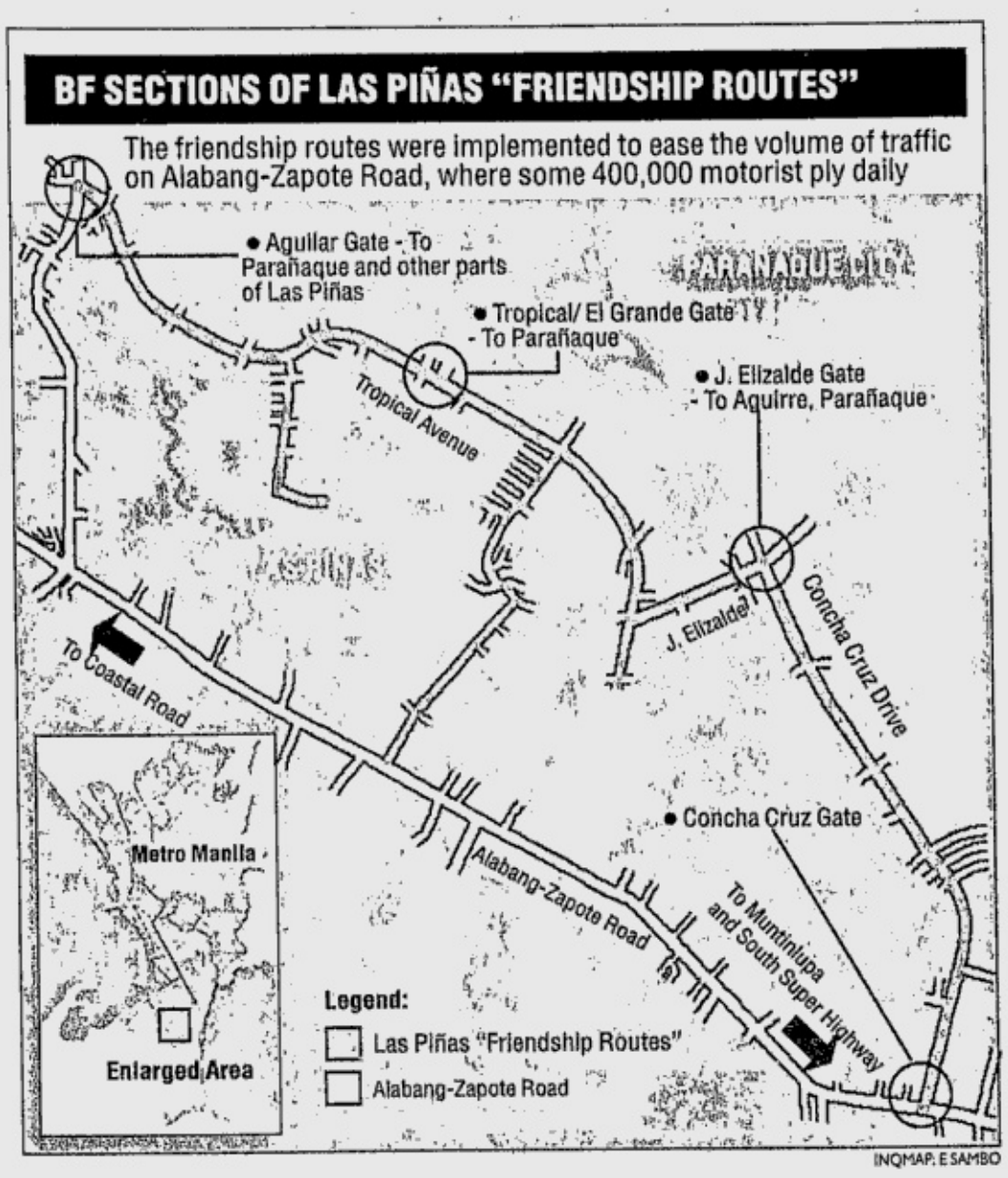

INQMAP: E SAMBO

Finally, a truly 'friendly' ride

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LAS PIÑAS CITY RESIDENT-motorists can now expect friendlier "Friendship Routes."

With the lifting of an injunction that prevented the Parañaque City government from opening to the public the main thoroughfares of BF Homes subdivision, Las Piñas City can now effectively implement Ordinance No.152-93 which opened so-called "Friendship Routes."

The ordinance was enacted by the City Council in 1993 to decongest traffic along Alabang-Zapote Road, which is also used by motorists from the cities of Parañaque and Muntinlupa and the province of Cavite.

"It is the backbone of Las Piñas City. It's like Edsa," Jimi Castillano, public information officer told the INQUIRER.

In 2000, roughly 200,000 vehicles used Alabang-Zapote Road daily.

Today, with the completion of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, that figure has doubled, said media staff Red Garcia. He said the boulevard made Alabang-Zapote Road more accessible.

Also, more motorists bound for Muntinlupa, Cavite and nearby provinces in the south, have opted to use the road rather than pay expensive toll fees on the South Luzon Expressway, he added.,

The Friendship Routes are alternative roads that Las Piñas resident-motorists can take to avoid traffic along Alabang-Zapote.

It is a network of 200 streets in about 60 villages and subdivision in the city, including a portion of BF Homes.

The ordinance directed owners, developers or homeowners associations to allow motorists to use their roads from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Only those with friendship stickers, which the local government issued for free, are allowed on the alternative routes.

Earlier, when Parañaque City government was slapped with an injunction in 2000, even motorists with friendship stickers were not allowed to pass through BF Homes.

BF Homes

BF International Village hosts 14 streets of the Friendship Routes. These include Tropical Avenue, Moscow, Ontario, Palace, Tel Aviv, J. Elizalde, R. Corpuz, J. Yulo, A. Jison, Marcelo, Nicanor Avelardo, Poblete Streets and Concha Cruz Drive and El Grande Avenue.

Other streets included in the "Friendship Routes" lie in four other villages affiliated with BF Homes: BF Executive Village, Southland Estate, Mariposa Village, BF Homes Almanza.

Before the injunction was lifted, the existence of guardhouses on Tropical Avenue, Concha Cruz Drive, Mariposa Street and in Southland "impeded traffic flow," according to the city engineer's office.

Former Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar, in a previous interview, said that the purpose of the "Friendship Routes" was defeated when the United BF Homeowners Association Inc. remained in control of its gates.

"Our motorists using the Friendship Route in BF Homes would have to go back once they reached El Grande and Aguirre because UBFHAI didn't recognize our stickers," said Aguilar.

Now that the Parañaque government has taken control of the subdivision's main gates, motorists can now take Tropical Avenue with entry points at the Southville International School and Concha Cruz Drive.

"Parañaque's ordinance reinforces our ordinance," said the former mayor.

Motorists could also take these streets to lessen the traffic on Alabang-Zapote between Marcos Alvarez Avenue and Daanghari.

"Marcos Alvarez and Daanghari are usually the chokepoints," said Garcia.

With the full opening of the Friendship Routes, traffic along Alabang-Zapote is lighter by 7.5 percent or as much as 30,000 vehicles, said Garcia.

Meanwhile, Mayor Imelda Aguilar assured village residents of their safety, saying that barangay watchmen and the police would be vigilant against criminal elements.

She also added that she would coordinate with Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe to ensure free traffic flow on BF Homes major thoroughfares.

Game over, NBI tells users of illegal software

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TIME'S UP.

That was the message of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to users of unauthorized computer software after the one-month grace period for them to buy legal programs expired last week.

"The users were given until Sept. 15 to get rid of their illegal software," NBI -Intellectual Property Division chief Jose Justo Yap said in a phone interview.

Yap added, "We will now be going after everyone engaged in computer piracy: from big companies to small business."

The Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, made up of the NBI, the Optical Media Board, and the Philippine National Police, gave businesses 30 days to buy authorized computer programs before they start conducting operations against those engaged in the illegal selling and distribution of software.

Yap said the crackdown would include sellers of illegally reproduced software and businesses, especially computer rental shops that use unlicensed programs. *(See related story on Page A18)*

Violators face stiff fines and jail terms of as long as nine years.

Search for model family

THE DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) relaunched on Saturday morning the Huwarang Pamilya Awards, which aims to honor exemplary families.

Huwarang Pamilya Awards was first launched in 1996 and had honored more than 200 families nationwide until it was suspended in 2000.

DSWD Secretary Luwalhati F. Pablo said that the program was a tribute to the Filipino Family for its triumph over trials and pressures that threatens its stability.

"Amid socio-economic difficulties, we call on the nation to take stock of the many blessings of their family," the DSWD secretary said during the Family Week celebration at the Marikina Sports Complex which was attended by families from the city and nearby areas.

The announcement of the search for the model family was the highlight of the celebration participated by non-government organizations and day care center administrators around the city.

Part of the celebration was the awarding of the first copy of the National Decade Plan for the Filipino Family to the family of Elisito Eleuserio, a kitchen equipment installer.

Children were treated to free food like ice cream. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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Archers claim twice-to-beat edge

Yeo shines as La Salle makes statement with 79-67 rout of UE

GAMES THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

MAKING THE MOST OF AN OPPORTUNITY to issue a basketball statement on the hardcourt, the La Salle Archers bucked the University of the East's relentless defense for a 79-67 triumph to claim the remaining twice-to-beat advantage in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I think the boys really wanted to drive a point that it's better if you decide a ballgame inside the hardcourt rather than in the boardroom," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren after winning the game ordered replayed by the league. The UAAP nullified La Salle's 86-83 overtime win last Sept. 1 after a UE protest.

The Archers, who were running fourth most of the season, forged a three-way tie with the Warriors and the Ateneo Eagles at 10-4. But the defending champions secured the No. 2 spot outright due to a superior quotient.

"Who would think we'd be in this position right now?" said Pumaren. "I think my players are a bunch of overachievers."

The Warriors and the Eagles will battle in a playoff match for the third spot on Thursday. The winner will face the Archers in the Final Four, while the league-leading Far Eastern U Tamaraws will battle the fourth-seed team.

Veteran Joseph Yeo, the hub of the Archers' offensive game, led with 20 points. Jun Cabatu and JV Casio chipped in a combined 29 markers.

The Archers zoomed to a 67-55 advantage after opening the fourth period with a 12-3 attack, capped by Cabatu's four-point play.

Yeo scored the Archers' next six points to keep the lead at 12, 73-61, with 1:57 to play.

The Archers overcame another big offensive game of Bonbon Custodio, who led UE with 19.

UE also missed the services of Marcy Arellano, who was downed by dengue fever.

Earlier, the Ateneo Lady Eagles edged the FEU Lady Tamaraws, 55-50, to claim the third spot in the Final Four in the women's basketball tournament.

The league-leading Adamson Lady Falcons will battle the Lady Tamaraws in the semifinals, while the second-seed UP Lady Maroons will take on the Lady Eagles in the other Final Four pairing.

The scores:

First Game (Women's)

ATENEO 55—Barracoso 13, Matreo 12, Tioseco 9, Villanueva 8, Chua 7, Tan-Chi 4, Quimpo 2, Pacheco 0, Ngo 0, Caynap 0.

FEU 50—Jose 14, Rivera 12, Adriano 8, Mercaso 7, Nido 5, Abella 4, Soriano 0, Gonzales 0, Borja 0.

Quarters: 9-8, 29-21, 42-38, 55-50

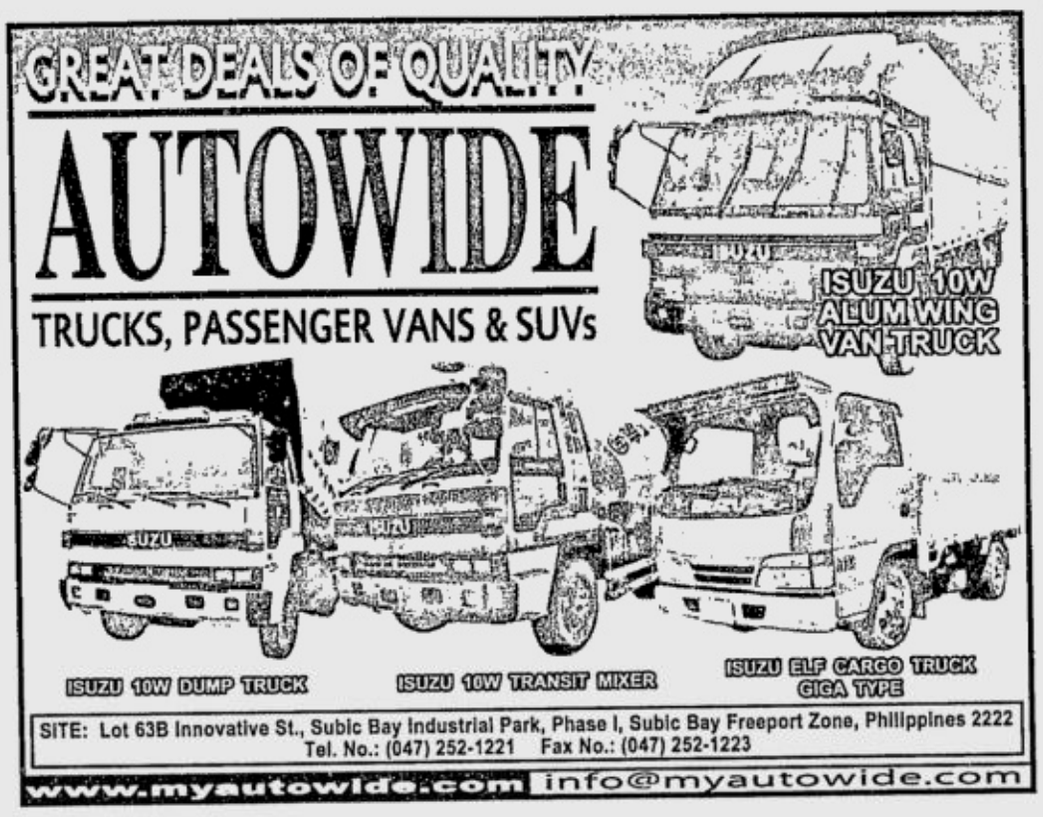
Second Game (Srs)

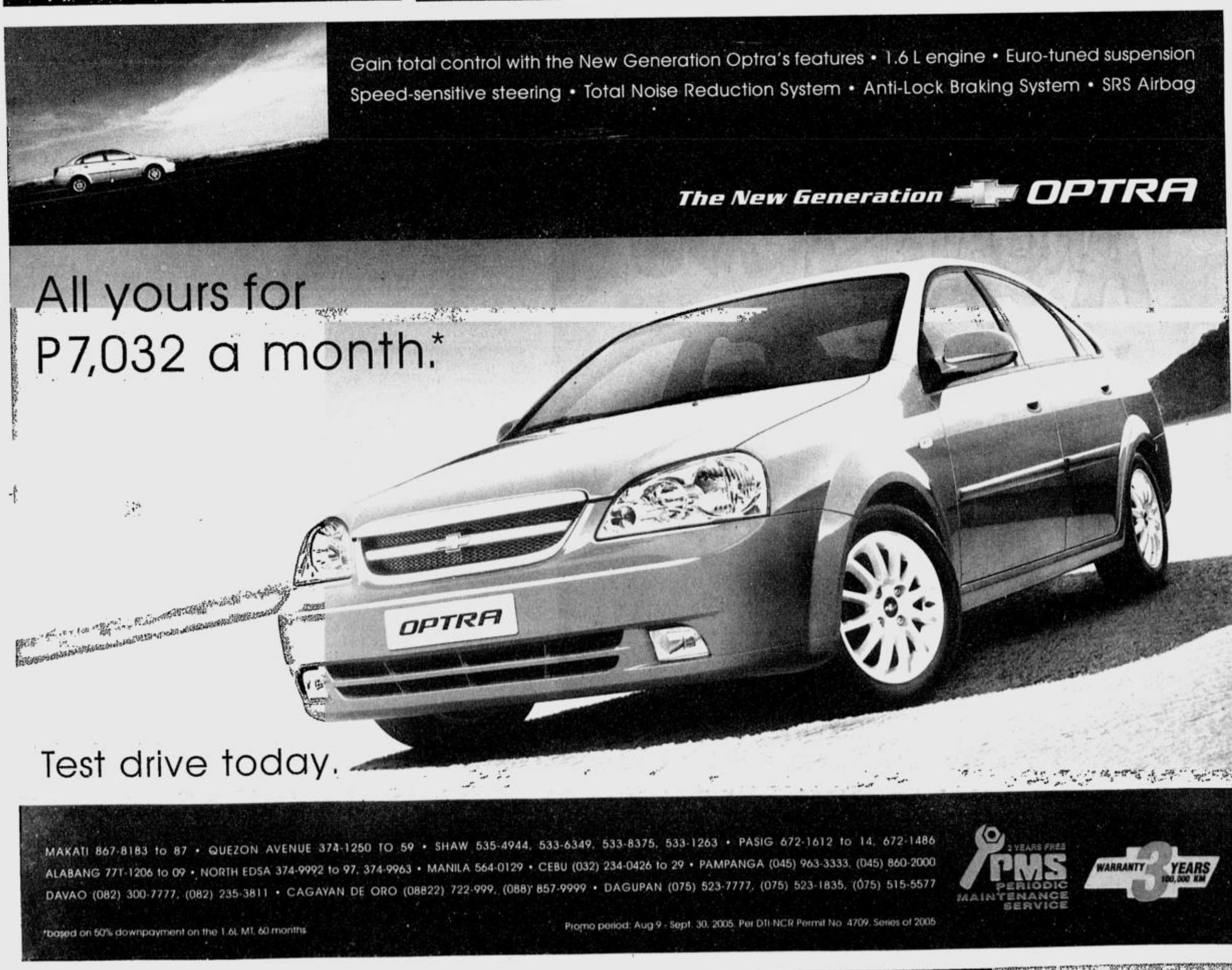
LA SALLE 79—Yeo 20, Cabatu 16, Casio 13, Tang 9, Barua 4, Araña 4, Benitez 2, Aquino 2, Villanueva 0, Rivera 0.

UE 67—Custodio 19, Borboran 11, Espiritu 9, Martinez 8, Raymundo 5, Cañizares 5, Saguindel 4, Labagala 4, Gregorio 2, Palaganas 0, Lapeña 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 39-30, 55-52, 79-67.

YEO: Game hero





Dolphins see Knights in shining armor today

NCAA best-of-three Finals begin

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
1:30 p.m.—San Beda vs SSC (Jrs)
3:30 p.m.—Awarding Ceremonies
4 p.m.—Letran vs PCU (Srs)

ESPINAS PDI PHOTO

LOOKING BACK AT THE LETRAN Knights' phenomenal run in the regular season, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins see themselves as the underdogs in the best-of-three Finals series of the NCAA senior basketball tournament.

"We are facing a very, very good team," said coach Junel Baculi as his Dolphins kick off their bid for a second straight title in Game 1 at 4 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum. "We are the underdogs in this series simply because we lost twice to them this year."

But coach Louie Alas, who steered the Knights in their 1998 and 2003 championship run, stressed that the odds are even.

"There are no favorites in this series," he said. "Both teams have equal chances. PCU has several PBL players and you can't discount their championship experience."

Letran finished the elimination round on top with a 13-1 record and barged into the title series after routing the San Sebastian Stags, 93-60, in the Final Four.

And Alas is expecting his Knights to sustain their no-nonsense and unflappable form on the hardcourt.

"The record wouldn't mean anything unless we win the championship," he noted. "We have to focus on our mental toughness. Our players off the bench will also be important. If they deliver, we have a good chance of winning."

PCU wrapped up the elimination round in second place with a 10-4 card and clinched a Finals berth after a convincing 76-53 triumph over the Mapua Cardinals.

Although the defending champions bowed to the Knights in their two encounters, Baculi pointed out that both were tightly contested matches.

"It showed that they are beatable," he said. "Letran's main strength is their full-court defense. If we can solve that, we have a better chance."

The Knights prevailed over the Dolphins, 70-64, in overtime in their first game and narrowly scored a repeat, 63-59, in their second meeting.

The Dolphins will again bank on the trio of Gabby Espinas, Robert Sanz and Jason Castro.

Espinas, the 2004 Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year, displayed another sensational all-around performance—posting 19 points, 15 rebounds, six assists, three steals and three blocks—against Mapua in the Final Four.

The Knights' offense will be anchored on senior forward Aaron Aban, the top contender for the Most Improved Player award.

Meanwhile, the league's top individual performers will be awarded at 3:30 p.m. today. Tightly contesting the Most Valuable Player award are Espinas and statistical leader Jay Sagad of the St. Benilde Blazers, while Kelvin dela Peña of the Mapua Cardinals is favored to clinch the Rookie of the Year plum. *Jasmine W. Payo*

PBL holds draft Sept. 30

EXCITING newcomers are expected to surface anew when the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) conducts its Rookie Draft on Sept. 30.

New players who wish to play in the country's premier amateur league have until Sept. 27 to submit their applications. Eligible to join the rookie draft are players who must not be more than 26 years old on opening day of the 24th season.

Fil-foreign players who wish to play in the league have to bring the necessary documents to prove their Filipino lineage.

This time though, Fil-foreign players must submit themselves in the rookie selection process. Teams may draft several Fil-foreigners, but are allowed to have just one Fil-foreign player in their roster.

Prior to the rookie draft, the league will hold a one-day aspirants camp where players will be given a chance to show their skills. The kick-off tournament of the 2006 season, likely to be called The Heroes Cup, begins on Oct. 29.

Though the league has lost some of its marquee players like Anthony Washington of Welcoat, Mark Cardona of Harbour Centre and Jondan Salvador of Montaña Pawnshop, Commissioner Chino Trinidad is confident that "we will discover more new faces capable of providing top entertainment to the league's legion of fans."

Players can get the application form at the new PBL office at Unit 2302A West Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange Center on Exchange Road, Pasig Center.

For inquiries, contact Lanie Sagayap at 667-3008-09 and 0917-8430648.

Pacquiao can help RP cram for SEAG?

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

MANNY PACQUIAO BEING THE FLAVOR OF the season, the country should not find it hard to cram in hosting the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set to fire off at the Luneta on Nov. 27.

With only a few weeks left to prepare for the biennial sports festival among Southeast Asian neighbors, national officials tasked to run the show are bound to rush out things and cut corners as Pacquiao had done for his last fight.

There's already the fear of conducting athletics at the Rizal Memorial track oval, a top Guinness bet as the most renovated sports venue in the world, without the use of a main electronic scoreboard.

If this is not remedied, the Manila 2005 SEA Games could turn into a hilarious throwback to primitive days when creaky officials in white long-sleeved shirts relied on hand-held watches to time competitors.

Of course, this should also help lure in tourists who would like to again see how things were done out on the cinder tracks during Hitler's 1936 Berlin Olympics.

* * *

Maybe they need to grab a share from the sale of Madame Imelda's auctioned diamonds to get an electronic scoreboard for the centerpiece event.

Or they could call in Imeldific herself to flash the magic wand that had seen her through monumental overnight constructions at the height of her Edifice Complex in the era of the hated dictatorship.

Anyway, the message here is for our top Games organizers, including those who staged a coup at the Philsoc (Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee), to please take a tip or two from Pacquiao on the secrets of successful cramming.

You see, columnist Max Soliven, seasoned and battle-scarred as he is, last week expressed dismay upon setting an eye, from a helicopter, on the snail-pace progress of grounds preparations at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC).

Do they still have ample time to set up for the grand celebration of youth in this part of Asia?

* * *

Yes, a visiting team from Thailand ruled that the venues should be functional by the time the Games open.

"Time will always be a problem, but the bigger problem is the lack of funds," groaned one key expert involved in preparations.

He made the revelation inside his exclusive second-floor office at RMSC last week.

Our source then stretched out and reluctantly pointed to a blackboard crowded with numerical figures.

"That has been there, the program should've been implemented a long time ago for our athletes to be thoroughly effective," he groaned, scratching his neat head.

So what's wrong?

"No money, *sagad na raw talaga*," he explained matter-of-factly.

Does he think RP would succeed in finally clinching the overall championship when we host the SEA Games for the third time?

He shook his head, manifesting despair and disbelief.

* * *

What about a miracle, like the Miracle of '91 when RP last hosted the Games?

"Maybe, if they had listened to Michael Keon who said we were losing the hometown edge due to the unavailability of the venues to our own athletes," explained the expert.

But they said the home crowds would tremendously pump up the adrenalin of our athletes.

"Let's hope and pray it turns out that way," he said. "Patriotic cheers could indeed work wonders."

How do we make sure the magic works?

"Let's call in Manny Pacquiao to lead the cheering in all the main venues," he said.

But won't tips from Pacman on how to cram and succeed be enough to ensure success in the Games?

"No, it won't work, definitely."

Why?

"RP's top rivals, like Thailand and Vietnam, won't come here ready to stand still and be hit silly like Hector Velazquez."

Where's the danger there?

"These powerful nations would be there to give their all, they'd fight hard all the way to the final round."

But you said problem all boils down to money?

"Yes, there was none, but they had enough to spend for the junketing congressmen and governors who all traveled with GMA to New York."

You're being unfair. Those solons persevered early to please their President. They did not have to cram to qualify for the junket.

"They did not need Pacquiao. Period."

MARKETING CONVERGENCE

Marketing Institute of the Philippines
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presents a seminar on

SERVICES MARKETING: MARKETING THE INTANGIBLES
September 27, 28 & 30, 2005 (Tues., Wed., & Fri.)
1:00 – 6:00 P.M., Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City

Seminar Description
The SERVICES MARKETING seminar has been designated for marketing executives of firms engaged in the marketing services. It aims to give them a better understanding and deeper insights in the subjects. This five-session seminar will provide the participants with the essential knowledge in the marketing services. Guided by the principles of the marketing mix, the speakers will lead the participants through the marketing maze that may appear simple in theory but become complicated in practice. However, the problem resolution techniques at the end of the seminar will provide valuable tools to prepare participants for the demanding jobs in service marketing.

Target Participants
This seminar is highly recommended to middle management executives, especially those who find themselves now thrust into service marketing from goods marketing. Marketing executives from a variety of service industries from A to Z – airlines, ad agencies, banking consultancies, entertainment, hospitals, insurance, leisure, media, medical centers, public relations, research firms, sales promotions, service stations, telecommunications, travel and zoos – will find this seminar a very profitable learning experience.

Methodology
Lectures, discussions and the preparation of a service marketing plan by groups will further give participants the proper managerial job perspectives. All the lecturers and the discussion leaders are engaged in service marketing and are ready to share with the participants their expertise gained through studies and work experience.

SEMINAR PROGRAM

Day 1 – September 27, 2005 (Tuesday)
1:00 – 1:30 p.m. – Introductory Session
THE BASICS OF MARKETING SERVICES
Session Chair: MARIVIC AC-AC
Professor, San Beda College

Session 1 - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCEPT OF SERVICES MARKETING
- The evolution of Service Marketing
- The great divide between products and services
- Innovations in service marketing
- Effective marketing of services

Speaker: **TIM CAPELLAN**
Managing Director, TEAM ASIA

Session 2 – 3:45 to 5:30 p.m.
CUSTOMER RESEARCH AS KEY TO TARGET MARKETING AND AN EFFECTIVE GAUGE FOR SERVICES MARKETING
- Research as key to segmentation, targeting and positioning
- Research as a mechanism for uncovering dimensions of customer expectation
- Research as feedback for customers expectations, monitoring and tracking customer satisfaction
- Research as basis for service marketing innovations

Speaker: **Nick B. Fontanilla**
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research

5:45 to 6:00 pm. - BRIEFING ON THE FINAL PROJECT

Day 2 - September 28, 2005 (Wednesday)
1:00 to 1:30 p.m. – LINK UP SESSION

Session 3 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
MARKETING-ORIENTED SERVICES OPERATION IN GOOD AND BAD TIMES
- Setting and measuring service standards that delight the customer
- Setting services standards even in crisis
- Marketing communications during crisis

Speaker: **DANILO J. MOJICA***
BU/General Manager, CEBU PACIFIC

Session 4 – 3:45 to 5:30 p.m.
CUSTOMER INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIP MARKETING CAMPAIGNS
- Managing your customer expectations
- Building relationships that transcend time and generation

Speaker: **BIENVENIDO S. POLICARPIO***
Executive Vice President, PRUDENTIAL LIFE PLAN GROUP

5:30 to 6:00 p.m. – BRAINSTORMING

Day 3 – September 30, 2005 (Friday)
1:00 to 1:30 p.m. – LINK UP SESSION

Session 5 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
MARKETING SERVICES BELOW THE LINE
- Options for below the line activities
- Choosing the best BTL
- Tracking and measuring BTL returns

Speaker: **RAUL ROQUE**
Group Marketing Director, MARESA CREATIVE

3:45 to 5:30 p.m. – PRESENTATION OF CASES/SUMMATION

*speaker to be confirmed

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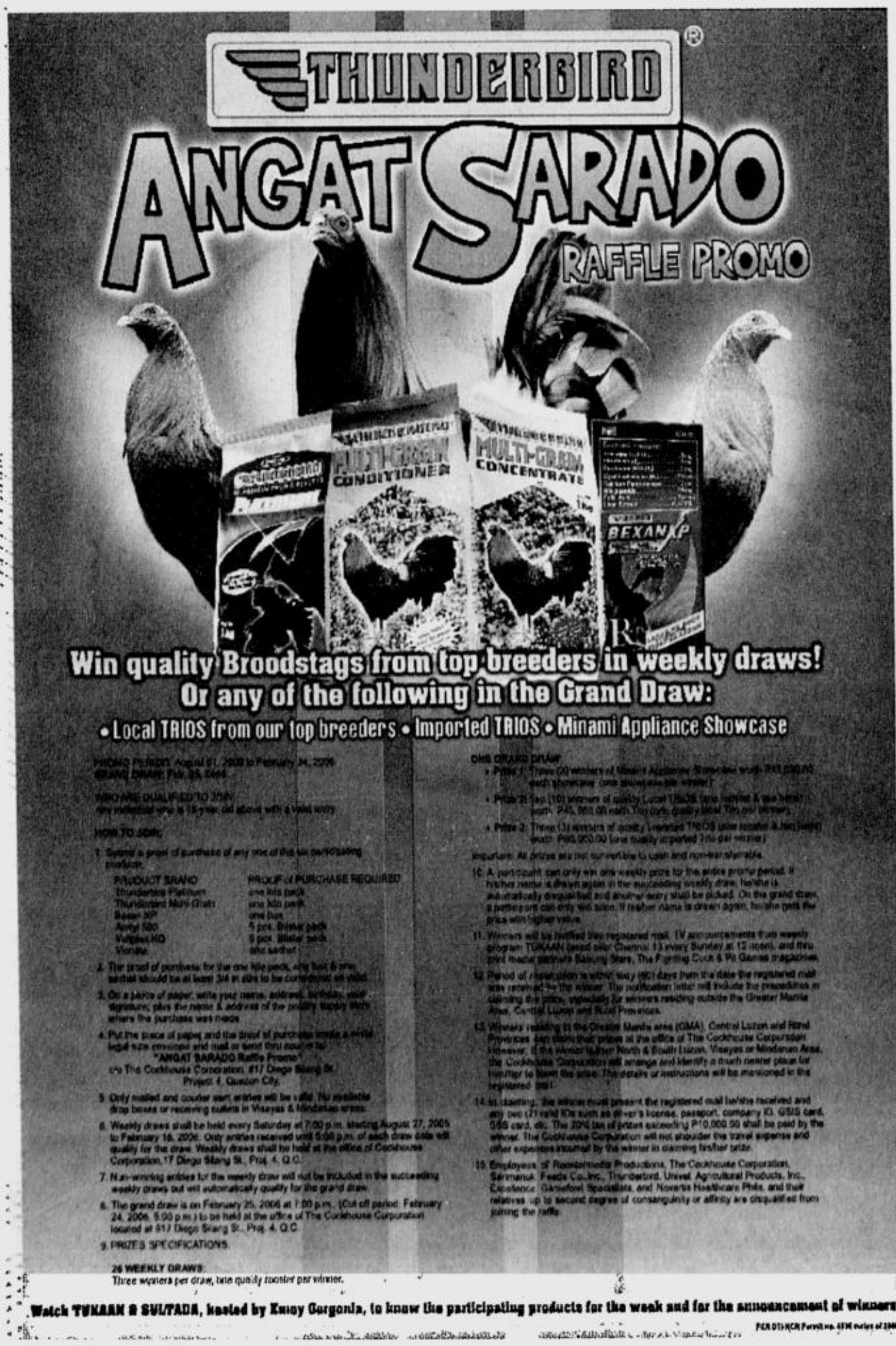

Golf Show honors jungolf champions

SUPERAL

AWARDS TO THE year's top achievers in the international scene as well as the two most loyal exhibitors will be handed out during the 10th edition of the Philippine International Golf Show on Oct. 7-9 at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong.

Jungolf standouts led by Wolen Superal, Dottie Ardina and Andie Unson and Philippine Ladies Open champion Jayvie Agojo will be recognized by the leadership Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines when it raises the curtain for the annual golf show on Oct. 7.

GDAP president Lovel Gopez said that awards have become an integral part of the show since two years ago as GDAP's way of giving importance to the exploits of Filipino players in the international arena. Superal won the boys 11-12 division in the recent Junior World. For details, visit www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com or call FMI at 759-6680 or 845-1324 or e-mail golfshow@fairsandmore.com.ph.

Ronquillo, Tad-y win

REYNOLITO RONQUILLO AND his partner Deogracias Tad-y conspired for a net 58 to clinch the Division I title by a stroke in the recent members monthly tournament of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

Playing the scramble format at the Aoki layout of the country's largest golf club, Ronquillo and Tad-y beat by one stroke the pair of Johnny Chung and Gary Sales while Raymundo and Marty del Rosario wound up third with a net 60.

Koreans Lee Ho and Kwon Hyo Yeong took the low gross in runaway fashion with their combined 62.

Peping Nepomuceno and Josephine Fernando ruled Division II while Ruben Enriquez and Rolando Garcia were the Division III winners.

Bobby Sison earlier topped the monthly tourney for senior members.

Pinoys eye 1st Nomura title

NARITA, JAPAN—IN TWO TIMES THAT THE Philippines finished second in the Nomura Cup, it never really had a chance to contend for the crown, losing by 17 strokes to Japan in 1971 and by 22 to Taiwan six years later.

The long spell could end this year when the likes of Juvic Pagunsan, Artemio Murakami, Jay Bayron and Erwin Vinluan try to combine their talent and skills and produce four superb rounds in what is also known as the Asia-Pacific Golf Team Championship firing off tomorrow.

"With the way the boys are playing, I think we have a good chance this year," said noted swing guru Bong Lopez, now the man at the helm of the national pool tasked to mold its members into world-caliber players.

The Filipinos had their first practice round at the Narita Golf Club yesterday, didn't keep score in a windless morning game but found the up-and-down, par-72 layout to their liking.

By his wards' standards, Lopez said the course appears not too daunting although it could change in character in the presence of the winds. He expressed guarded optimism against a field teeming with talent.

The four-day event serves as part of the RP team's buildup for the coming Southeast Asian Games in Manila. The trip is backed by the National Golf Association of the Philippines through golf patron Ricky Razon.

Marapara ready for RP Amateur

BACOLOD CITY—THEY MAY BE THE BEST amateurs in the land, male and female, but none of them are going to find an easy route—or fairway for that matter—toward the 2005 Philippine Amateur crowns.

Because as short as the Marapara Golf Club will play, it will not exactly be defenseless. Not with narrow fairways that will require the most precise shots in golf.

Spread to just over 6,500 yards, the course still poses as a huge obstacle to those dreaming of hoisting the grandest trophy in amateur golf in the country. Under hot weather, the fairways will bounce balls to different directions.

If the rains come, the soggy surface can swallow up shots and force some tough lies.

This will mark the first time that the RP Amateurs will be held in Bacolod in 26 years.

Entries will be accepted not later than the close of office hours on Sept. 23 at the NGAP office with tels. (02) 5256987, (02) 5245160, (0920) 9507514 and (0917) 5607074 or at the NOGCC at (034) 4411190.

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Why Congress should not slash sports budget

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WAS DEEPLY FRUSTRATED with the news that next year's budget for the Philippine Sports Commission would be slashed from P70 million to P27 million.

In my view, this drastic cut in the PSC budget is a no-brainer and will only show to the world how sports is treated poorly in this country.

"This is adding insult to injury," said former sports commissioner and now Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella. "We will do everything to stop the passage of the bill in Congress. We will fight this in Congress."

Since 2002 the allocation given to sports has been dwindling dramatically. The PSC is now operating on a budget of P70 million this year compared with P107 million in 2004 and more than P130 million in 2003.

"I don't know how we can win medals in the Olympic Games with this kind of treatment for sports development," said PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez, who has been recently directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to "do everything to ensure that the country wins its first Olympic gold medal in Beijing in 2008."

The proposed national budget is biased against sports. In the new budget, sports will only get the crumbs while the other government departments like defense, finance, health, foreign affairs, environment and natural resources, justice and education will get their special care and attention, including huge budgetary outlays.

Congress should not reduce the budget for sports. One reason why Philippine sports continues to deteriorate is because of the perennial lack of funding. As a result, even the basic needs of the athletes such as training equipment, decent quarters and food and vitamins have often been neglected.

Sports development is a primary responsibility of the government. The state is the most significant entity that should give sports the needed boost. That is why Congress should not slash the budget for sports. This is but one area where the government can manifest its support and concern for sports. Should this be realized, the Philippines will rise again and would no longer be regarded as the "Sick Man of Asia."

An analysis of what's wrong with the present state of Philippine sports will also show that aside from the lack of funding, there is also an alarming lack of talents who will replace the present crop of athletes who are representing the country in international events, including the coming Southeast Asian Games. The Palarong Pambansa has been the best program for the discovery of young and promising talents, but it failed to achieve its goal due to some differences among government officials in the past.

Unless a serious, honest and more efficient mass-based sports program like the "Palaro" is held, Filipino athletes can never be competitive and their performance can never be at par with their counterparts from other countries. In addition to the lack of a truly mass-based program, there is also confusion in the sports bureaucracy and disagreements among our sports leaders.

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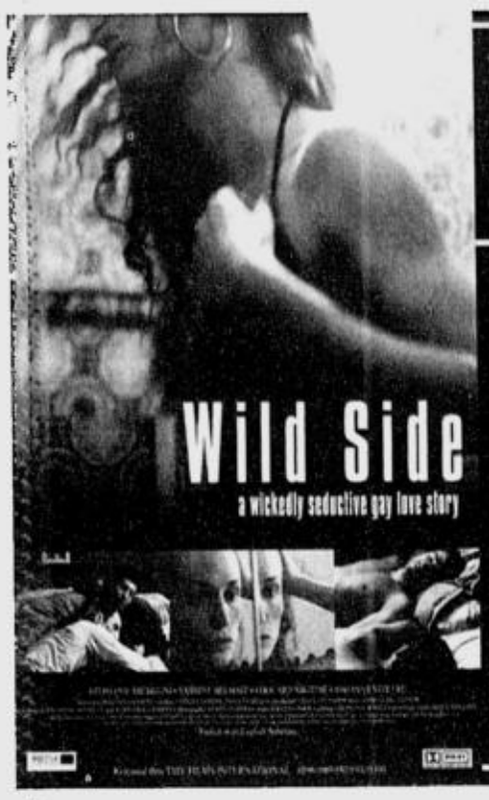

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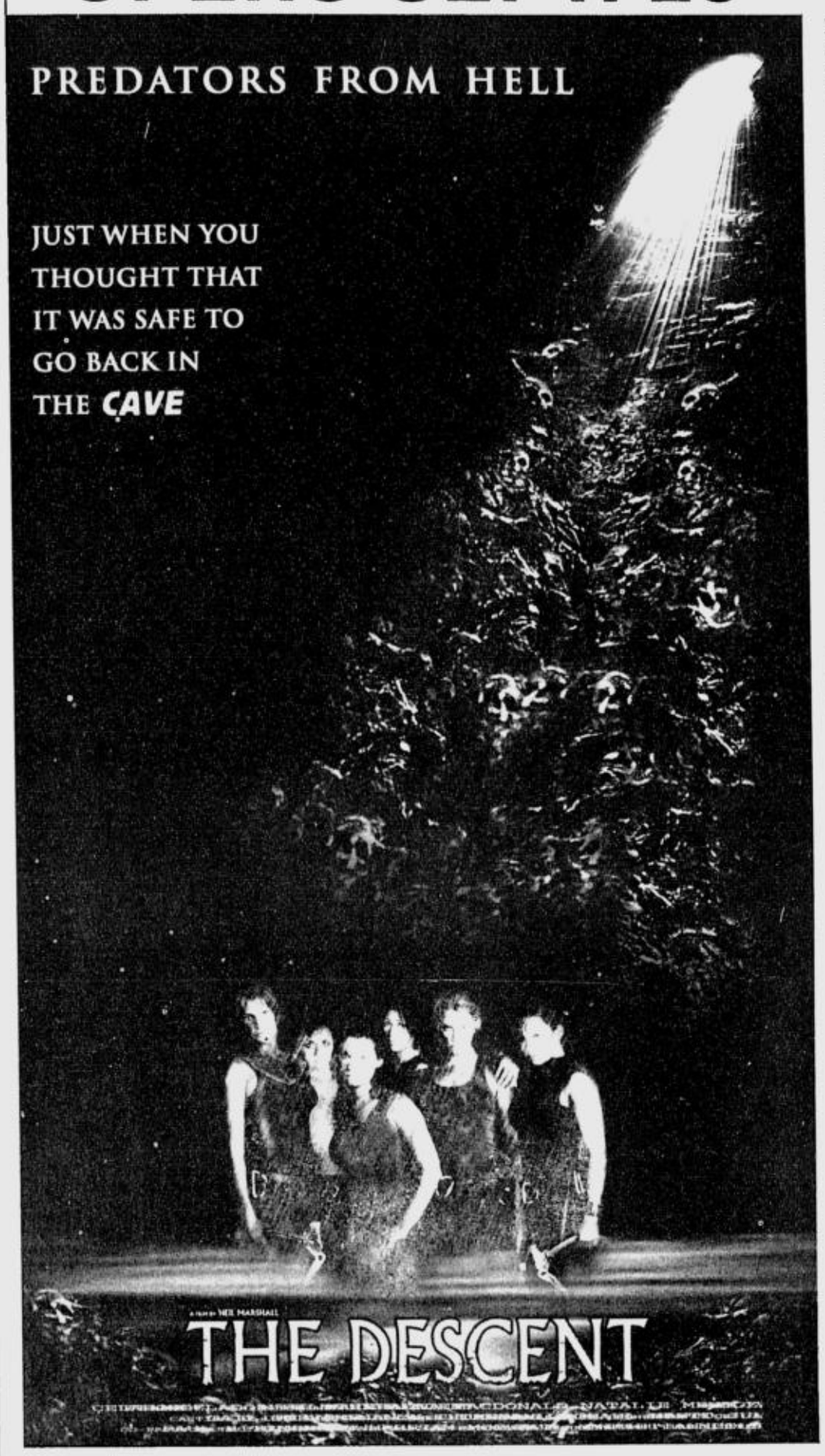

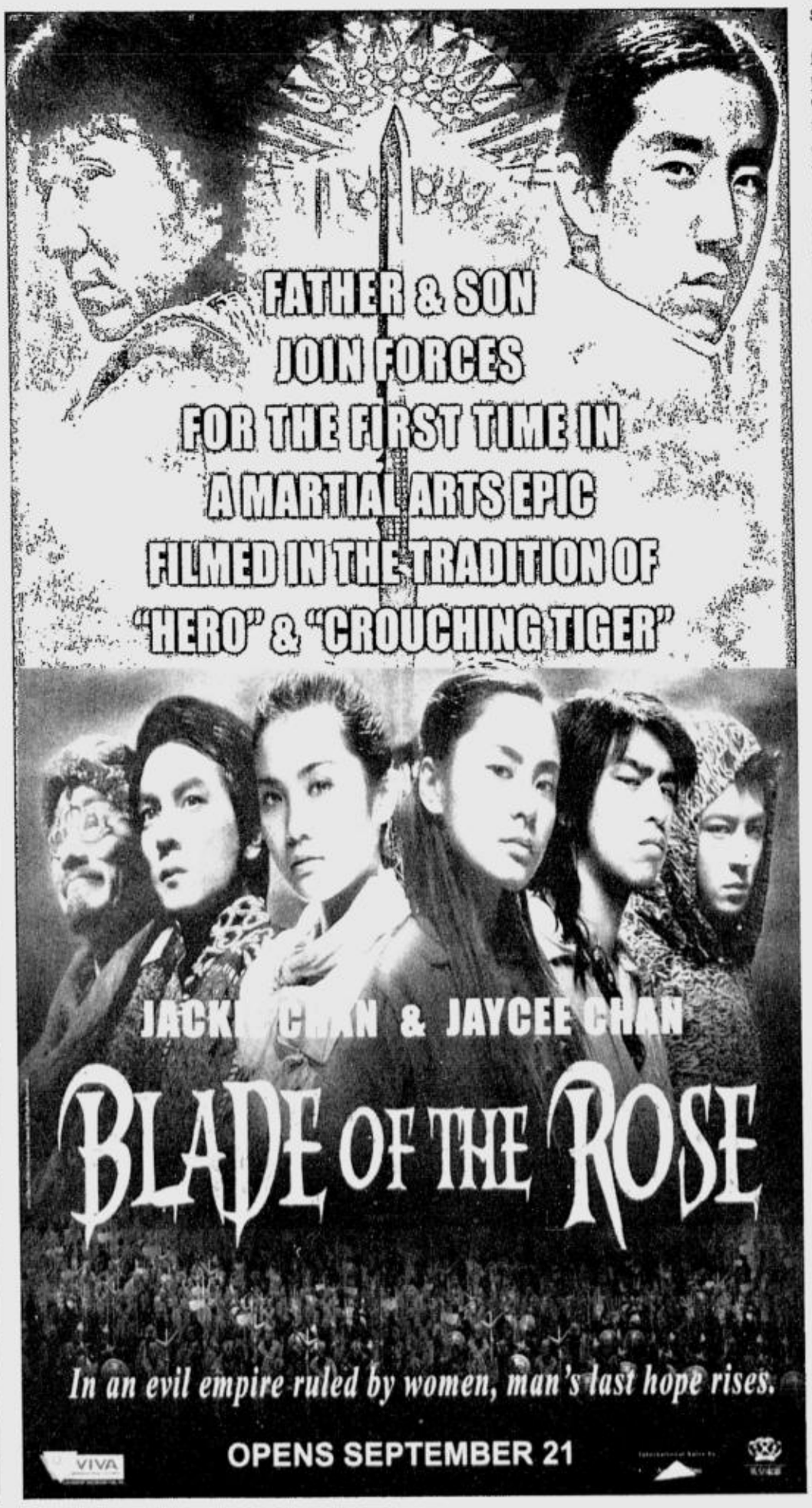

Mosl

LAS VEGAS—SHANE MOSLE
anything but sweet. He was
ner, though, with his sights
bigger things.

Mosley won his second strai
since moving back down to
weight Saturday night, beati
Luiz Cruz on a unanimous deci

The fight was held just afte
at the MGM Grand hotel-ca
which IBF lightweight champi
vander Johnson suffered a brai
and underwent surgery at a lo
pital to relieve pressure on his b

Also on the card, Marco
Barrera defended his WBC
featherweight title with a decis
over IBF champion Robert P
Australia.

Campbe Goosen

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGland—US Open champion Michael Campbell demolished top-seeded Retief Goosen, 7 and 6, Saturday in the semifinals of the World Match Play Championship.

Goosen struggled after earlier beating Kenneth Ferrie 9 and 8 and Mark Hensby by a record-tying 12 and 11 in his first two matches.

The fourth-seeded Campbell had a tougher time in the early rounds, needing 37 holes to beat Steve Elkington on Friday. He looked good Saturday, though.

"This morning I came up strong," Campbell said. "I eagled four and birdied three in a row so I was four up after seven holes. Then I just

Thai rule golf; Rosa

TAIWAN—THAI STALWART Thaworn Wiratchant stormed from three shots back to win the $300,000 Taiwan Open on Sunday, his second title of the season.

The 38-year-old Thaworn fired a superb eight-under-par 64 in the final round at Chang Gung Golf Club to hit the title by one stroke from compatriot Chapchai Nirat, who closed with a 67.

Overnight leader Scott Strange of Australia settled for third place, three shots behind the winner, after a 70, and was tied with Chinese Taipei's Lu Wei-lan and Terry Pilkadaris of Australia.

Gerald Rosales of the Philippines fired a 69 and finished at 281 in a tie for 18th to 23rd places.

Thaworn's victory was his sixth on the Asian Tour and the winner's check of US$47,250 pushed him back

AMELIE Mauresmo celebrate

PARIS—AMELIE MAURES mo easily beat an error prone Anastasia Myskina, 6-4, 6-2, Saturday to help France pull even with Russia at 1-1 in the Fed Cup final.

Myskina, who struggled for control throughout and hit a forehand long on match point, lost four straight games at 2-2 in the second set and made 40 unforced errors overall.

Earlier Saturday, Elena Dementieva gave Russia

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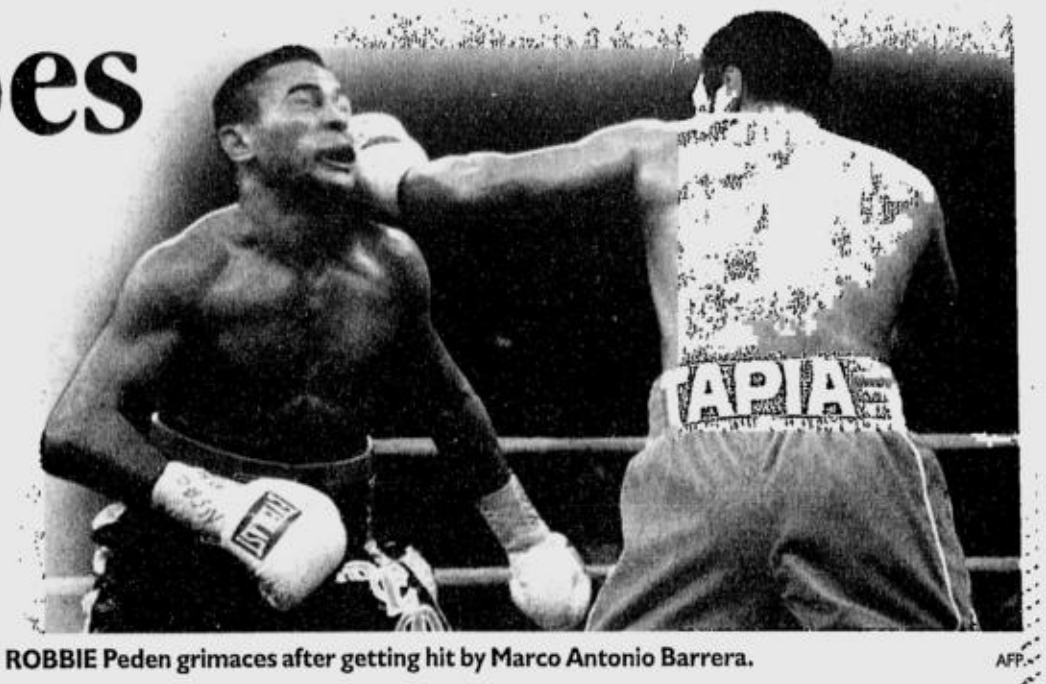
ey, Barrera beat up foes


ROBBIE Peden grimaces after getting hit by Marco Antonio Barrera. AFP

Y WAS a win- set on ht fight welter- g Jose ion. a bout sino in on Lea- injury al hos- rain. ntonio super on win den of

Mosley won his 10-round fight easily on all three scorecards but was unimpressive in beating Cruz. One judge had it 98-92, the second scored it 97-93 and the third 96-94.

Still, he said he was ready to take on the best in the 147-pound division.

"I wish I would have knocked him out but I'll take the win," Mosley said. "I feel like I'm definitely at the top now. I'll fight anybody, (Antonio) Margarito, (Zab) Judah."

Mosley, who moved down from 154 pounds after losing two decisions to Winky Wright, showed little of the speed that marked his early career and landed only one punch at a time.

But it was good enough to up his record to 41-4 and hand Cruz his first loss in 35 fights.

"I felt I was boxing pretty good," Mosley said. "The one thing about the Mexicans is they always come to give you a good fight."

Mosley and Cruz entered the ring with no idea that Johnson had been injured in the previous fight. Johnson walked from the ring under his own power before collapsing in his dressing room and being taken to University Medical Center.

His promoter, Lou DiBella, said the fighter was undergoing surgery late Saturday night.

"He's not in good shape," DiBella said. "The brain started swelling and they were inducing a coma."

Johnson took a beating in his fight with Jesus Chavez before the bout was stopped 38 seconds into the 11th round. Johnson had taken about two dozen unanswered punches to the head while on the ropes before referee Tony Weeks finally stepped in to stop it.

Chavez dominated the fight, landing big punches to Johnson's head from the opening bell. Punch stats showed him landing 409 punches to 148 for Johnson.

After the fight at the MGM Grand hotel-casino, Johnson said in the ring that "I'm all right," but later collapsed in his dressing room.

Barrera, meanwhile, defended his 130-pound title and added the IBF version of the crown with a unanimous decision over Peden. *AP*

ell ousts handily

wanted to hang on to that lead and I managed to scrape another one at the end of that round."

Campbell will face 11th-seeded Paul McGinley in Sunday's final. McGinley beat second-seeded Angel Cabrera 4 and 3.

"Getting to the final is not what I'm interested in. It's winning this tournament," McGinley said.

Campbell's eagle at the fourth was conceded and his three birdies came on putts of 6, 20 and 7 feet.

"I knew I had to play well today," Campbell said. "I enjoyed beating the two-time US Open champion. But I have another job tomorrow so I'm ready for the challenge. *AP*

s Taiwan ules 18th

to the top of the Order of Merit, a week after he was overhauled by compatriot Thongchai Jaidee, who did not play in Taipei this week.

"I'm really happy. Everything worked in my favor in the final round," said Thaworn, whose sensational finish tied the course record and helped him post a four-day total of 18-under-par 270. *AFP*

Sorenstam takes Hammond lead

BROKEN ARROW, OKLAhoma—Defending champion Annika Sorenstam shot a 3-under 68 Saturday to take a one-stroke lead over Michelle Ellis and Maria Hjorth after three rounds of the John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic. Sorenstam made back-to-back birdies at Nos. 14-15 to break a three-way tie for the lead *AP*

auresmo ties Fed Cup final

s her victory. AFP

the lead with a 7-6 (1), 2-6, 6-1 victory over Mary Pierce on center court at Roland Garros, home of the French Open.

Mauresmo will play Dementieva in Sunday's reverse singles. Pierce may be dropped for the second match against Myskina.

France, which lost to Russia in last year's final without Pierce and Mauresmo, is trying to win the title for the third time. AP

in PSA Forum

e Basketball Association is m at the Pantalan Restau- es Jong Uichico of defend- guel, Joel Banal (Talk 'N a), Yeng Gulao (Red Bull), no (Purefoods), Alfrancis Coca-Cola) and Bo Perasol ored by Red Bull, Circure, Mayor Lito Atienza.

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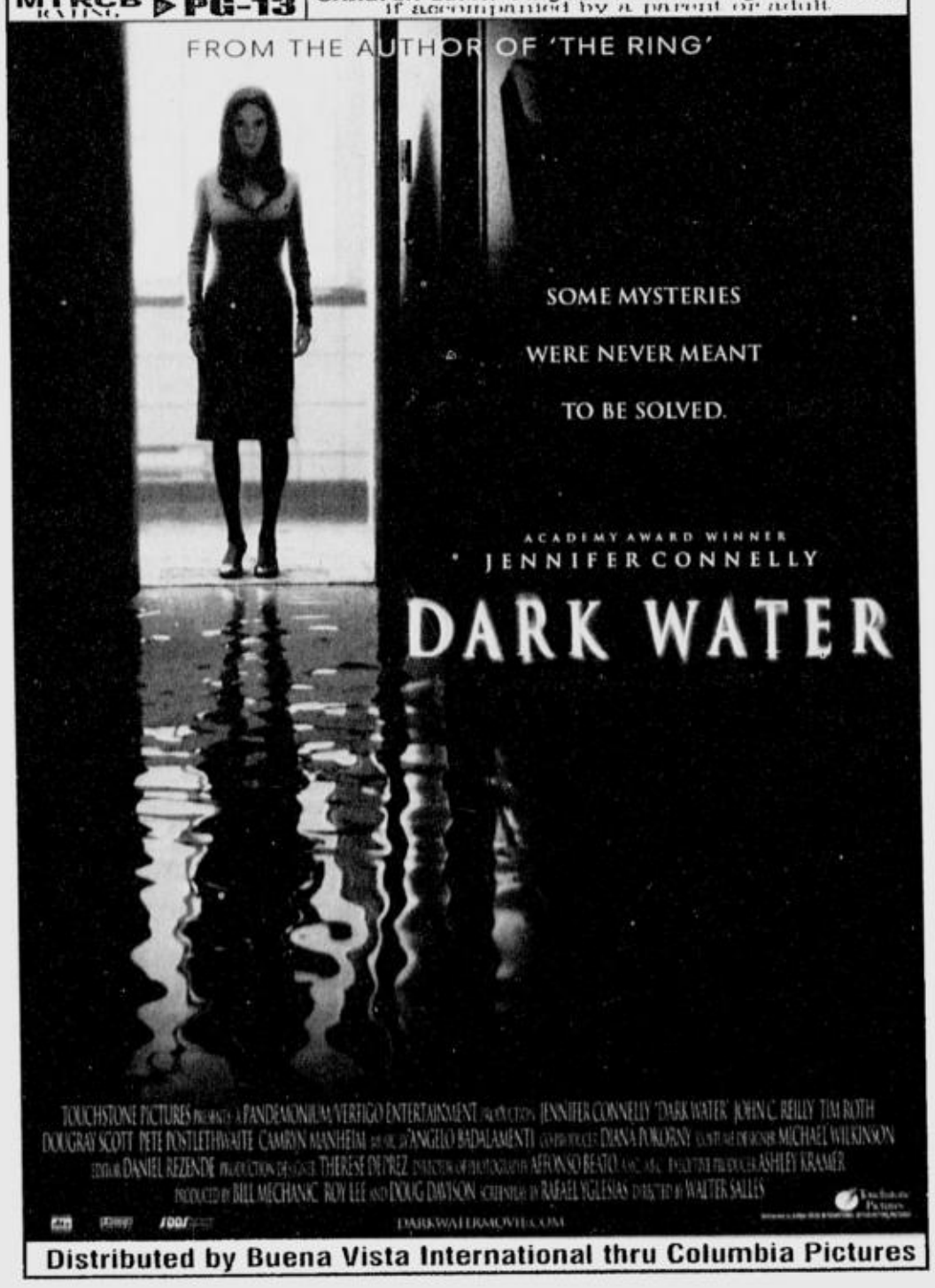
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SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 ARAHAN

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 SKY HIGH
5 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
6 RED EYE
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD
7 RESERVED
8 EVIL EYES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 MAN OF THE HOUSE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 LONGEST YARD
6 SKY HIGH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

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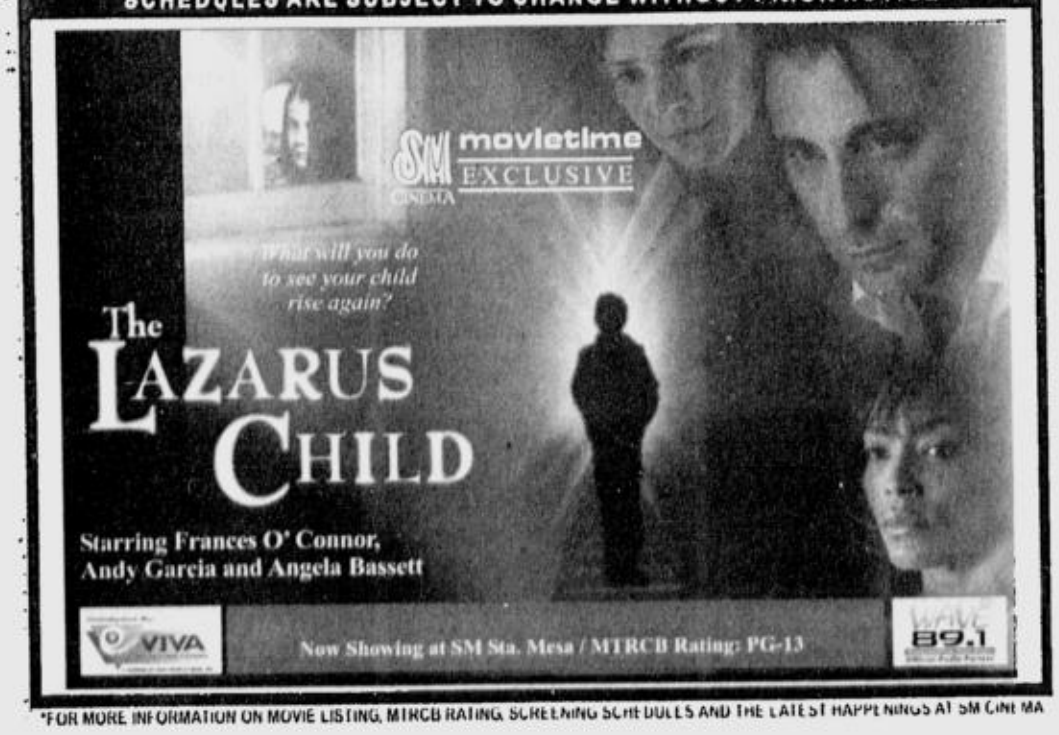

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINDERELLA MAN
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

3 RED EYE
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20

4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
MTRCB PG-13
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
SKY HIGH (GP) 12:50, 3:00, 5:10
RED EYE (PG-13) 7:40, 10:00

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CINEMA 4 SOUND OF THUNDER - PG13 11:50, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:25
CINEMA 5 CINDERELLA MAN - PG13 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
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1 RED EYE 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2 CINDERELLA MAN 11:20, 2:20, 5:20 8:20, 11:10 PG-13
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM 12:10, 2:55, 5:40 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
4 SOUND OF THUNDER 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
CINDERELLA MAN PG13 2:10,5:00,7:50
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING 1:30,3:30
BROTHERS GRIMM PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15
RED EYE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
A SOUND OF THUNDER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
CINDERELLA MAN PG13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10

Iligan stuns Ozamiz five

ILIGAN CITY—THE ILIGAN CRUSADERS shocked top-seeded Ozamiz, 79-72, Saturday to take game one of their best-of-three Southern Conference semifinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the MSU-IIT gym here.

The fourth-seeded Crusaders, who advanced to the semis after the Cagayan de Oro Stars forfeited their quarterfinal series, tightened up on defense, limiting Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers to 36-percent field goal shooting (26 of 72).

Veterans Jerome Barbosa and Dondon Mendoza steadied in the homestretch to power Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders to victory. Gerry Cavan paced the scoring, though, with 13 points, including three triples.

Ex-PBA player Christian Nicdao proved to be a big disappointment for Ozamiz, going scoreless in 19 foul-plagued minutes of play.

Over at Valencia City, the Valencia Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galario Jr. knocked out the Iloilo Warriors, 82-69.

The Mutt-and-Jeff tandem of Julius Navales and Nat Cruz combined for 34 points as Valencia gained a semifinal date with Mantawi in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Navales, who topscored with 18, outplayed ex-Purefoods player Tonyboy Espinosa.

Opulencia enters singles qualifying

FOURTH SEED FILIPINO JOSE LORENZO Opulencia marched into the boys' singles final qualifying of the Phinma-ITF Juniors Championships yesterday after posting a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Taiwanese Hseuh Chin Hao at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Opulencia will meet the winner between sixth seed Taiwanese Tsai Chun Neng and Korean Chung Soo Han, who were still playing at presstime.

Gerardo Narvaez and Romel Openiano also bested their rivals. The seventh-seeded Narvaez, whose elder brother Miguel Lorenzo is seeded No. 1 in the main draw starting tomorrow, routed Taiwanese Lin Yun Che, 6-1, 6-1, while the unranked Openiano clobbered compatriot Ken Patrick Arevalo, 6-1, 6-1.Narvaez faces Taiwanese Lin Yu Wen today.

SPORTSWATCH

1st Nat'l Subic Marathon

THE FIRST National Subic Marathon will be run through pristine scenery beside Subic Bay on Oct. 23. The full, open marathon will benefit the PNP Values and Leadership School, and is sponsored by PMA Class of '78. Contingents of amateurs are expected to participate along with the country's best long-distance runners from national, regional and local teams. The fun event hopes to help rehabilitate, retrain and put to best use members of the law-enforcement community. Call SPO3 Amor Santillian at 724-1569 for details.

5-stag PCAP showdown

THE SHOWDOWN of big-time cockers resumes today at the air-conditioned Makati Coliseum via the third leg of the "Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5- stag one-day derby." Action starts at 4 p.m. with more than 70 fights on tap. Four entries shared the championship last Monday: Binangonan of Gov. Ito Ynares and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Fajinfer of Jet Fernando, Blue Blade Joke Joke Joke of Gerry Ramos and Golden Link Yra of Blandy Tolentino. Meanwhile, the second National Cockers Association (NCA) 7–Stag Derby starts tomorrow. All entries must be submitted today at WTJ office, from 2-9 p.m. For details, call 896- 3545 and 895 -6475.

Palaban round 2 today

THE SECOND round elimination of Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby" gets going at 4 p.m. today with more than 80 encounters lined up. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Host Edgar Coronel said 11 entries tallied two wins apiece on Saturday: Diamond I and Jay and Butch Diamond both by Jay Sonza, David Bryan of Dante Tumagos, Dec. 14 Meycauayan of Eddie Gred, D' Captain of Raul Panizal, Cactus Alindahaw of Rene Ilagan, Cockers Bar Grill of Jonie Roa, MM of May Molano, M Labasan of Teddy Macadagdag, Lucky Gin Kenneth of Delfin Sarte and Jasm of Boy Mozones.

Derby slates 80 fights

COCKERS of Rizal and Metro Manila clash today in New Cainta Coliseum's "Daytime 4–stag derby" which will start at noon with about 80 fights scheduled. The event will be the second NCC derby under the management of Rizal cockers Sam Mendoza and Aba Badiola. The first derby was held last Aug. 30 (42 entries) won by Ronnie Mangulabnan whose RBJ Silangan bet swept its five fights. Today's host is pit manager Boyet Luna who put up a prize of P300,000. Slated on Oct. 11 is the "Invitational 5-Stag Daytime Derby" which offers a prize of P500,000. Hosts are Aba Badiola, Beng and Sam Mendoza.

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM • THX
2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 CINDERELLA MAN
1:20 4:20 7:00 9:50

3 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 THE CROW 4
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00

9 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LOVESTRUCK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 THE CAVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 CINDERELLA MAN
12:00 2:50 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 THE CROW 4
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 RED EYE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

2 THE CAVE
1:35 4:00 6:25 8:50

3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 CINDERELLA MAN
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 SKY HIGH
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 RED EYE
12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

8 LOVESTRUCK
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 RESERVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 SKELETON KEY
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SKELETON KEY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 LOVESTRUCK
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 EVIL EYES
4 THE LONGEST YARD

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
4 CINDERELLA MAN

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 RED EYE
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 THE CAVE
4 LOVESTRUCK

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 981-5270

1 EVIL EYES
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 RED EYE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 SKY HIGH
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 VALIANT
4 SKELETON KEY
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

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1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

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THX

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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	1 THE CROW: WICKED PRAYER	2 A SOUND OF THUNDER	3 THE CAVE	4 LOVESTRUCK
G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	1 RED EYE	2 A SOUND OF THUNDER	3 THX CINDERELLA MAN 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 SKY HIGH	6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	7 LOVESTRUCK
GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	1 CINDERELLA MAN 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20		2 LOVESTRUCK 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	
GB3 (GREENBELT 3)	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX CINDERELLA MAN 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LONG WEEKEND 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RED EYE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)	1 THX CINDERELLA MAN		2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	
	3 LOVESTRUCK	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER	5 RED EYE	
ACC (AYALA CENTER CEBU)	1 THE LONGEST YARD	2 SKY HIGH	3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS	4 LOVESTRUCK

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SPORTS

Perfect start gives Sy 1st AF3 victory

FILIPINO winner Tyson Sy is flanked by Ireland's John O'Hara, 1st runner-up, and Great Britain's James Winslow, 2nd runner-up, during the ninth leg victory ride.

BOGOR, INDONESIA—FILIPINO young gun Tyson Sy took pains perfecting his start Sunday and reaped a huge dividend, cruising to victory in Round 9 of the Asian Formula Three Grand Prix at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Sy, 17, racing for Speedtech Asia, had his cylinders firing hot right at the start and watched the field with a squint through his rearview mirror, clocking 17 minutes and 5.236 seconds in becoming the first Filipino to win in the series since Pepon Marave took the overall championship in 2003.

Getting a big boost from a team strategy that gave him a blasting start, Sy earned 20 points and improved his total to 81 points in the overall championship standings, jumping from a share of fifth to solo third. More important, the victory gave Sy reasons to stay determined in his drive to yank Indonesian overall leader Ananda Mikola out of the championship picture.

"I will try to beat Mikola as long as I could, as long as it's safe," said Sy, who spent 30 minutes early Sunday focusing on getting a perfect start, something that had cost him dearly in at least two other legs of the nation-hopping series.

"I had 30 minutes just practicing my launch," said Sy. "I was focused on just getting a good start."

Round 10 of the 12-leg series will be held Sunday afternoon, with Sy again starting from pole position and bidding to post a golden double. Grid positions for the 10th round are determined by the finish of the drivers in the 9th round.

Indonesian series leader Mikola of Fastron Racing with Threebond, needing just one more win to clinch the championship, failed to finish. He slammed into the tire wall in the second lap while giving Sy a chase from fourth on the grid.

Tacadino, Tumpalan rule race

SANTIAGO CITY, ISABELA—RODOLFO Tacadino and Nancy Tumpalan dominated the final elimination leg of the 29th National Milo Marathon that started and ended here at the Santiago City Hall yesterday.

Tacadino, the 42-year-old veteran marathoner from Gamu, Isabela, captured his ninth leg title by handily beating Marson Tarcelo of Baguio City. Tacadino completed the 21-kilometer course in one hour, 11 minutes and 30 seconds while Tarcelo settled for second place with a clocking of 1:13:14.

Alberto Samiling finished at third place with a time of 1:14:15.

Tacadino won seven straight leg titles in Tuguegarao City but lost to Reynaldo Pascua in Laoag City last year. When the Baguio City leg of the Milo Marathon was transferred to Santiago City, two towns away from Tacadino's home town of Upi, the Armyman was elated to finally have the hometown advantage this year.

For the past three months, he trained for three hours daily in preparation for yesterday's race and will double his efforts for the next three weeks for the 42K National Finals.

Santiago City Mayor Amelita Navarro fired the starting gun that flagged off 3,000 runners. She also helped Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong in handing the trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers of the races.

Peregrine tops BOTC west leg; ARC gains

PEREGRINE MANILA BADMINTON Center and Family Badminton Center clinched berths to the grand finals after topping the West leg eliminations of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2 yesterday at the Feathers 'N Strings courts in Intramuros.

Peregrine completed a four-game sweep of the leg with victories over Feathers 'N String and Art Badminton Center in the tourney co-presented by Mizuno, Smart: Simply Amazing and INQUIRER Badminton.

Family won, 3-1, over Olivarez Sports Center to place second and bag the other finals slot disputed in this two-day qualifier also supported by Citibank On-Line, Unilever and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

Meanwhile, Alabang Racquet Club also clinched a finals ticket when it beat Anvil and Smash N' Fun in a three-team replay ordered by organizers following the disqualification of Matchplay for fielding an ineligible player.

ARC first abbreviated its match against Smash before banking on the heroics of Deejay Potenciano-Nitrie Espiritu in the men's doubles and Lichie Alonde-Ryan del Rosario in the deciding mixed doubles to earn a 2-1 win over Anvil.

Marose Santiago and Tina had earlier given Anvil a 1-0 lead by taking the ladies' doubles.

The other supporters of the tourney are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade and Wilson as the official shuttlecock. Media partners are Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3, while Marco Polo Davao is the official hotel for the Mindanao leg.

Feather wound up third with a 2-2 win-loss record, Olivarez finished fourth at 1-3 and Arty lost all of its four matches.

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Madrigal joins Malaysia races

PHILIPPINE KARTING PRINCESS ALESSANDRA Madrigal of Alessandra Racing Team Inc. leaves for Malaysia today to compete in two prestigious events.

The 9-year-old Madrigal will first test her mettle against the best Asian Cadet 85 drivers in the third round of the Asian Karting Open Championship set Sept. 23-25 at the Shah Alam Circuit.

A week after, she will seek another big finish in the Rotax Max Challenge Malaysian Championship on Oct. 1-2 in Langkawi.

Madrigal, who is backed by ING Private Banking, Puma and Globe Gizmo together with co-sponsors Dickies, Petron Ultron, Nissan Gallery and Ford Global City, achieved a string of podium finishes in the international karting scene this year. She considers her stint in the Asian Karting Open Championship a big challenge since she will be going up against Singaporean Andrew Tang and talented Indonesian bets Dustin Sofyan and Senna Sulaiman Noor.

Sofyan and Noor made it a 1-2 finish for Indonesia in the Asian Karting kickoff at the Carmona Circuit Philippines last June.

Madrigal also has to drive against three top Malaysian bets who are also entered in the Rotax Max Challenge—Cadet champ Mohammad Hiqmal Danial, Bryan Homi Mehta and Siti Shahkirah.

"I believe the Asian Karting Open will be a big challenge in my karting career but I'll try my best to deliver glory for the country," said Madrigal.

MADRIGAL

Cebu rolls out carpet for Games

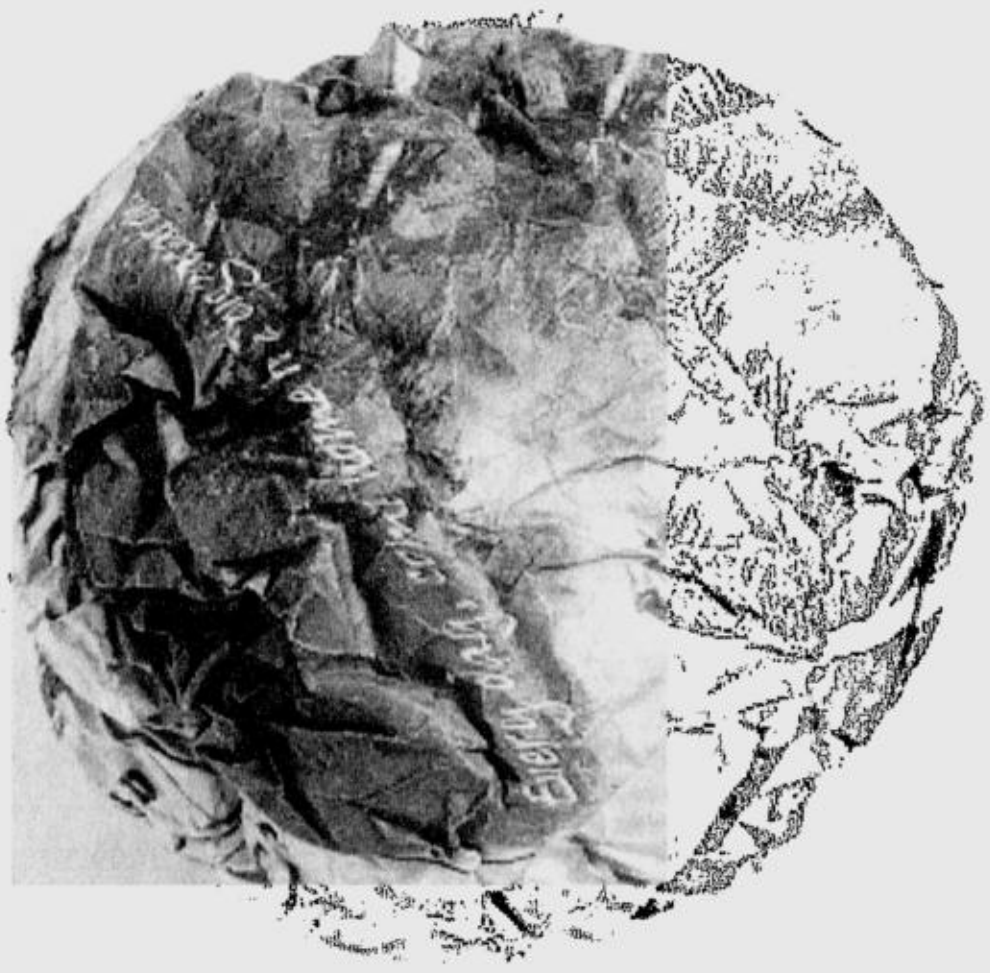
CEBU CITY—SHOWing its commitment to host a memorable spectacle, Cebu will hold a grand launching of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games on Sept. 19 at the Capitol Provincial Hall here.

Close to 300 guests from the business sector, local and national government, civic groups and media from the Visayas are expected to attend the affair that will showcase Cebu's readiness as provincial hub of the biennial meet slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Leading the rites are Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña, Mandaue City Mayor Teddy Ouano and Danao City Mayor Ramonito Durano who will be joined by officials of Cebusoc, the working arm of Cebu's hosting job, led by Jonathan Guardo, Cheryl Ouano and Boying Rodriguez.

Highlight of the affair is a video presentation about dancesport, judo, karatedo, pencak silat, sepak takraw and mountainbike—the six sporting disciplines that will be co-hosted by the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Danao.

There's also a special video presentation about Cebu's culture, tradition, tourist spots, people and everything it can offer to foreign visitors during the SEA Games.



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INQUIRER

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Sweet Suzie's swan song

Tomorrow

THE FINAL three contenders in "Rock Star INXS": MiG Ayesa, Marty Casey, JD Fortune in another exclusive interview!

By Fran Katigbak

SUZIE McNeil, arguably the best vocalist of the last four finalists in "Rock Star: INXS," failed in her sixth attempt to escape elimination.

The self-proclaimed Queen of the Bottom Three bade goodbye Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) to the reality show aimed at finding a front man for Aussie band INXS.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The 28-year-old vocal and multi-instrumental artist has been a full-time professional musician for the past five years.

She joined top Canadian acts in live gigs, lent her voice to commercial jingles, and toured Canada and the United States with the tribute show "Abba Mania." Last year, her musical collaboration with Toronto songwriter/drummer Alison Maclean won a major Canadian songwriting contest.

In an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Suzie talked about her reign as "queen" and rocking through the bottom three rankings.

What are your plans now?

First, I need to reenter society. I haven't seen the world [throughout my stay at the "Rock Star" mansion]. I'm a little disoriented. I don't know what [the future] is going to bring. The bottom line is that I've been singing my whole life.

What surprise did you get for your two encores and why was it not aired?

My boyfriend visited, but I was told [later] that it wasn't aired. The visit went great though. I needed it.

Have you trashed your Queen of the Bottom Three hat or are you taking it home?

I got rid of the hat but I think I've kept a little of the Queen of the Bottom thing. I actually want to give the hat away, sell it or maybe post it on the Internet. In the end, I was the Queen of the Bottom Three [because] I was there six times and I rocked that thing. I even rocked it leaving, so I feel good.

Do you think the original songs by JD Fortune and Marty Casey have increased their chances of becoming INXS' front man?

The songs ("Pretty Vegas" and "Trees") have given them [good] standing, yes.

Who do you miss the most among the rockers?

We're all meeting at the finale on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila). I'm very excited to see Tara (Slone), Ty (Taylor) and Marty. They're like my best friends there.

How did you feel about not getting a brand-new car?

(Laughs) I missed the car by one day. But I'm going to ask Honda if I can have one anyway . . . and then they'll say no.

Since Marty is one of your close friends in the show, are you rooting for him?

Actually, I'm rooting for Marty because I'm closest to him but, professionally, I have to say that I think all three finalists have what it takes to front INXS. It just depends on what direction INXS wants to go.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Dingdong Dantes is behind women in the fight against a "silent killer." The young actor is among GMA 7 artists who support Avon's "Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer" program. The network, through president and CEO Felipe Gozon, recently signed with the cosmetics company an agreement for the forthcoming activities of the three-year-old campaign.

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TOP 10

SONG	ARTIST	KEYWORD
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Incomplete	Backstreet Boys	K2
Through The Fire	Nina	K3
I'll Never Go	Erik Santos	K4
Beautiful Soul	Jesse McCartney	K5
Same Ground	Kitchie Nadal	K6
You and Me	Lifehouse	K7
True	Ryan Cabrera	K8
Especially For You	MYMP	K9
Untitled	Simple Plan	K10

HOT PICKS

SONG	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Hand In My Pocket	Alanis Morissette	K11
If I Ain't Got You	Alicia Keys	K12
I'll Be	Edwin McCain	K13
Stay	Lisa Loeb	K14
Unwell	Matchbox 20	K15
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang	Ogie Alcasid	K16
Don't Cry Out Loud	Rachelle Ann Go	K17
You'll Be Safe Here	Rivermaya	K18
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Weak	SWV	K20

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Promising options on HBO

ON HBO THIS MONTH, THESE MOVIES MERIT your special interest as potentially entertaining and enriching viewing fare. Why not size them up to see if they suit your personal preferences?

"And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself." **Antonio Banderas** plays the colorful Mexican revolutionary leader with great relish.

"Batman Forever." **Val Kilmer** portrays the Masked Avenger, but **Jim Carrey** steals the movie with his over-the-top portrayal of Batman's arch-nemesis, "The Riddler."

"Big Fish." **Billy Crudup** plays a young man with a problem father (**Albert Finney** in the present; **Ewan McGregor** as the character in his youth). The problem with him is his being an inveterate liar. In the end, however, the son realizes that his dad has been telling the truth all along!

"Consequence." **Armand Assante** establishes his own "death" and, with the help of plastic surgery, reemerges as his long-missing brother. But his elaborate scheme blows up in his face when the CIA guns for him because his brother turns out to be a rogue agent who's made off with a quarter of a billion dollars of the agency's money.

"Dad." A father and son (**Jack Lemmon** and **Ted Danson**) rediscover their relationship and themselves when brought together by a family crisis.

"Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." To clear her mind of her tumultuous relationship with the character played by Jim Carrey, **Kate Winslet** has her memories erased—which leads to something quite unexpected.

"Helter Skelter." Hypnotic commune leader Charles Manson (**Jeremy Davies**) convinces his followers that he is their savior. Concepts of right and wrong are soon blurred, and Manson eventually orders his acolytes to kill actress Sharon Tate and four of her friends.

"My House in Umbria." A stirring dramatization of the healing power of friendship, nature and time, starring **Maggie Smith**, **Ronnie Barker** and **Chris Cooper**.

"Normal." After 25 years of marriage, **Tom Wilkinson** tells his wife (**Jessica Lange**) that he's a woman trapped in a man's body and wants a sex change!

A story of love and acceptance, this film focuses on a couple who must redefine the very concept of marriage. In the process, they find some unexpected answers.

"Pontiac Moon." Ted Danson times a road trip with his son to coincide with the start and completion of the Apollo XI mission to the moon.

"Soapdish." This film starring **Sally Field**, **Kevin Kline** and **Robert Downey Jr.** takes viewers behind the scenes of a long-running daytime TV series. The cast members engage in daily bouts of one-upmanship and back-stabbing that rival the plot upheavals of the soap they're working on.

"The Cat's Meow." A fictitious look at the possible reasons for the death of silent movie producer Thomas Ince during a holiday with media tycoon William Randolph Hearst. With **Kirsten Dunst** and **Cary Elwes**.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Ang Palasyo ni Valentin'

PETA is launching its new theater center and school this month. To highlight this event, **Mario O'Hara's** prize-winning "Ang Palasyo ni Valentin" will be staged at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the new center (5 Sunnyville Dr., Barangay Kristong Hari, QC).

"Palasyo" is a *sarswela* about the love between a young pianist and a beautiful singer, set in the glory days of the Philippine Revolution, up to pre-war Manila. Call 8175670.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Why are you endorsing this particular brand of shampoo?

Guest: Because, very definitely, it's the best way to soft your hair!

(Ah, soft . . .)

***

Host: Is it true that you and your girlfriend first met when you were still children?

Guest: No, we were already in puberties!

(*Ay*, in puberties!)

What's it all about, A

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS Andie MacDowell has mastered the art of being the comic foil, straight gal to wild and wacky co-stars Gerard Depardieu ("Green Card"), Hugh Grant ("Four Weddings and a Funeral"), Bill Murray ("Groundhog Day") and Michael Keaton ("Multiplicity").

It's not just the leading men.

In "The Muse," Andie played a cookie-baking housewife opposite the scenery-chewing Sharon Stone.

Interestingly, the real Andie seems to be the genteel Southern belle.

To illustrate: INQUIRER Entertainment's recent phone conversation with her was interrupted at one point by a string of "I'm sorrys." The reason: "I just spilled tea all over me."

In the new Hallmark TV-movie, "Riding the Bus with My Sister," (premieres Oct. 2, 9 p.m.), Andie once again allows screen sister Rosie O'Donnell to tackle the flashier role—or, in the words of director Anjelica Huston, "the more dynamic part."

This chick flick is based on a poignant book that chronicles the travails and triumphs of real-life siblings Rachel and Beth Simon.

Andie portrays an ultra-efficient, albeit uptight, fashion photographer who reluctantly cares for a special sister after their father's death.

"It was very uncomfortable for me to portray someone who was initially cold and harsh," she told INQUIRER. "Anjelica helped me a lot."

It was heaven-sent that the director is an actress herself, and an Oscar-winning one at that. Andie said: "She is an artist that I have a lot of respect for. She's a very strong woman . . . a little intimidating, but in a good way! She passed on a lot of confidence to me."

Of course, Rosie was just as overwhelming a presence as Anjelica.

Andie asserted, however, that Rosie (who, according to Anjelica, is a "force of na-

CHICK FLICK. Andie MacDowell with executive producer Rosie O'Donnell, left, and director Anjelica Huston

The star of Hallmark's 'R the Bus with My Sister,' gives pre advice to aspiri actresses: 'You d have to be skinny-as-heck'

ture") never once acted like set, even though she was t producer.

"Whenever I was with her I was with a fellow actor," A

For one scene, Andie wep ter Rosie ad-libbed and cha from, "You're cool" to "I love

The core

For Andie, the bond betw ters was the core of the film.

She explained: "We tend on people, like 'handicappe ly challenged.' By doing so, selves off as superior. But we're not. We're all just peop is, the so-called 'mentally ch ter actually taught the 'nc great lesson in life. My chara walked around with a hard rest of her life. But her time ter allowed her to change i ous, gentle and lovely woma

Andie says she's inspired pouring of love and appre been showered with as a movie.

"I got a lot of thank-you I'm not used to getting fan performance," she quips. were from people who through similar situations. movie portrayed their live

Maric I don

She'd rather be alone in bed with pillows, says the awarded actress, whose priority right now are her children

2ND WEEK

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LOVESTRUCK 12:15 / 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00 / 9:15	THE LONG WEEKEND 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
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THE CROW 4 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	SKY HIGH 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 LOVESTRUCK 12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05	4 LIPSTICK 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
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NCAA FINALS: GAME 2- SSC-R vs SBC Jrs. 2 pm September 21 Wednesday CSJL VS PCU Srs 4 pm

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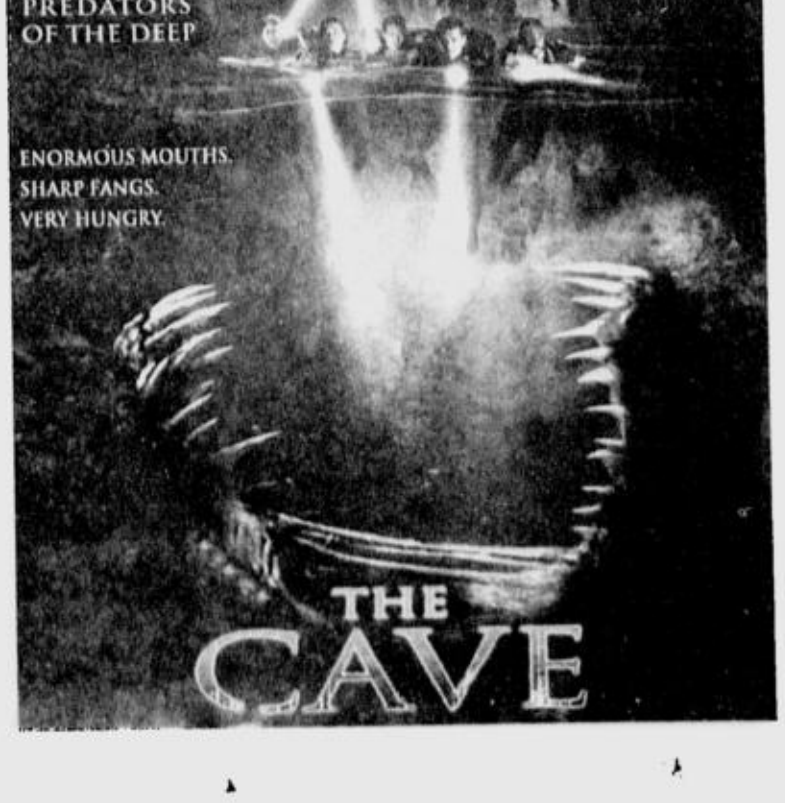

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That is precisely her goal as an actress: authentic portrayals.

Just like her character Rachel, "who was hardened by life," Andie had to overcome nearly insurmountable obstacles, starting with an impoverished childhood in South Carolina. Her transition from model to actress was similarly rocky—marked by the embarrassment of having her voice dubbed by Glenn Close in her debut, "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes" in 1983.

Even so, Andie cinched two Best Actress awards (from the Independent Spirit and LA Film Critics Association) for her breakout role in "Sex, Lies and Videotape" in 1989.

Was that sweet vindication?

"Did it feel good? Of course, it did," she says, laughing. "Every time you earn the respect of the people you work with . . . it's always a wonderful feeling!"

Find teachers

Andie, who is currently preparing for the premiere of her latest film, "Tara Road," in Ireland, offers these pieces of precious advice to young women who seek success in Hollywood:

"Find great teachers. That doesn't necessarily mean going to college. There are great [acting] teachers in New York and Los Angeles. Also, don't follow any formula because there is no such thing. Others say you have to be skinny-as-heck. That's not true! Just be honest and good. You also have to find the right projects, those that would show what you're capable of."

el Soriano: 't miss sex

By Nini Valera

"I DON'T MISS SEX," SAID MARICEL SORIANO IN an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment.

Maricel, 40, confided that she had not been intimate with a man for about 10 years now.

"Honestly, I prefer to be alone in bed with my pillows. I have only one 'man' ... *ang nasa taas* (the One above). He's enough for me," she said.

The actress has had her share of romance. Her one marriage—to actor Edu Manzano—ended in separation after four years.

"But we have remained friends," she insisted. "The marriage just didn't work out."

She refused to dig up the past, saying that it's better left in her memory. Right now, it's the future and her family that are most important to her.

"I have my children to be happy about," Maricel proclaimed.

Marron, 17, an adopted son with former boyfriend Ronnie Ricketts, and Tien, 11, her son by Congressman Cesar Jalosjos, are a hovering presence in Maricel's current existence.

"It's tough to reason with Tien," she said with good humor. "Like, he would insist that I come home early even when I'm on location shooting. He would nag me endlessly. One time, we were talking on the phone when I told him that I would not be home until late. And he said, 'How come you were early yesterday?' I told him I just got lucky the previous day."

Survivor

But luck and Maricel are more than just nodding acquaintances. She has survived the pitfalls of her show biz career, which now spans more than three decades and more than a hundred movies. She was only 8 when show biz called. As a young star, she seemed to suddenly lose her naivete, embracing as she did the trademark "taray" image.

The years, however, have softened the toughness and smoothed out the rough edges.

"There are movies I made in the past that make me cringe now," she admitted. "But they are still part of what I am and what I have become."

What she has become is the "Diamond Star," a tag she earned with her glowing dramatic performances, the most recent of which was her role as the spinster

THE PAST is past, but "it's part of what I am, what I have become." RYAN LIM

in the family drama "Filipinas" in 2003. The role bagged her several acting awards and reaffirmed her status as an A-list actress.

"I love what I do," she said. "My work is interesting, and my roles keep changing. Still, there's that routine in my life which has given me peace. It's nice to come home every night and drink tea."

It's also nice, she said, to be working again for television, a medium that has always been kind to her. Starting tonight, Maricel will be seen on ABS-CBN in the *teleserye* "Vietnam Rose," in the role of a Vietnam War survivor, who has to confront her past in order for her to make peace with her future in the Philippines.

"When I was asked to do 'Vietnam Rose,' I did not hesitate," Maricel said. "I knew I would be working with *Direk* Joel Lamangan, whom I really respect and admire. Just give me a good script, a good director and a good company, and I will jump."

FEEDBACK

Why Roger was here

You did not mention that Cinemanila International Festival brought [Hollywood producer] Roger Garcia to the country for a script-pitching workshop, organized in cooperation with the city of Manila and the Goteborg Film Festival.

Marian Hernandez
Sun Valley, Parañaque

Bravo Booboos!

I tremendously enjoy most of Nestor U. Torre's "Boob-Tube Booboos." I look forward to the day when he names names. That would be hilarious!

Also, is there a powerful group that prevents the regular publication of TV ratings in the Philippines?

Jaime Naanep
New Jersey

ROUNDUP

Please release me

ACTRESS Assunta De Rossi has asked ABS-CBN to release her from her contract last week, INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Friday.

But network executives have yet to confirm this, despite earlier reports that quoted Assunta's husband, former Negros Occidental Rep. Julio "Jules" Ledesma as saying he was upset about the network's failure to fulfill the terms of his wife's contract.

This would be the third time for Assunta. Before she married Ledesma in March 2004, Assunta terminated her contract with veteran talent manager Manny Valera, who had built her career. She signed up with another veteran talent manager, June Rufino. But the contract was also short-lived. Ledesma accused Rufino of failing to deliver. *Nini Valera*

Docu film forum

THE UP Film Institute is sponsoring "Forum on the Documentary" tomorrow at the College of Mass Communication auditorium, Plaridel Hall Annex, Ylanan Road, University of the Philippines, Diliman.

The two-part program includes documentary screenings, 1-4 p.m., and a panel discussion, 4-5:30 p.m.

Among the panelists are Cheche Lazaro of the Probe Team; Nick de Ocampo of the Mowelfund Film Institute; Ditsi Carolino, award-winning independent documentarist, and Kiri Dalena of S.T. Exposure.

The discussion will be moderated by Isabel Kenny, film lecturer and author of "Making Documentaries in the Philippines."

Film showings include De Ocampo's short documentary, "The Sex Warriors and the Samurai," a Probe Team documentary and a short film by Dalena and Kevin MacDonald, "Touching the Void."

Call 9206863.

Off to "Rock Star" finals

ROCKER Dex de Rosa, 28, flies to Los Angeles, California, today to watch the grand finals of "Rock Star: INXS" on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila). The trip is his prize as winner of the "Rock Star: INXS Local Search," held at the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta, Makati City.

The competition was in line with Star World's reality TV show created to find a new front man for the Aussie band INXS.

De Rosa will meet the band's members and tour the Rock Star Mansion in Hollywood.

Britney vs Nirvana

IT STILL "Smells Like Teen Spirit," but some days it gets "Toxic."

The latter, Nirvana's anthem, has taken the lead in Sony Ericsson's countdown of the world's 100 favorite songs in Walkman Phones 100. But pop superstar Britney Spears holds on to second spot. The Eagles' "Hotel California," three decades after its first radio airplay, is still number 3.

Hundreds of thousands of music lovers have cast their votes. The listing launches the Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman phone. Visit www.walkmanphones100.com.

Magical mornings

STARTING today, "Lilo and Stitch" will be seen on Disney Adventures, Channel 2, Monday to Friday at 9 a.m. ABS-CBN announced that more of children's favorite Disney shows would soon follow.

Four Notes reunited

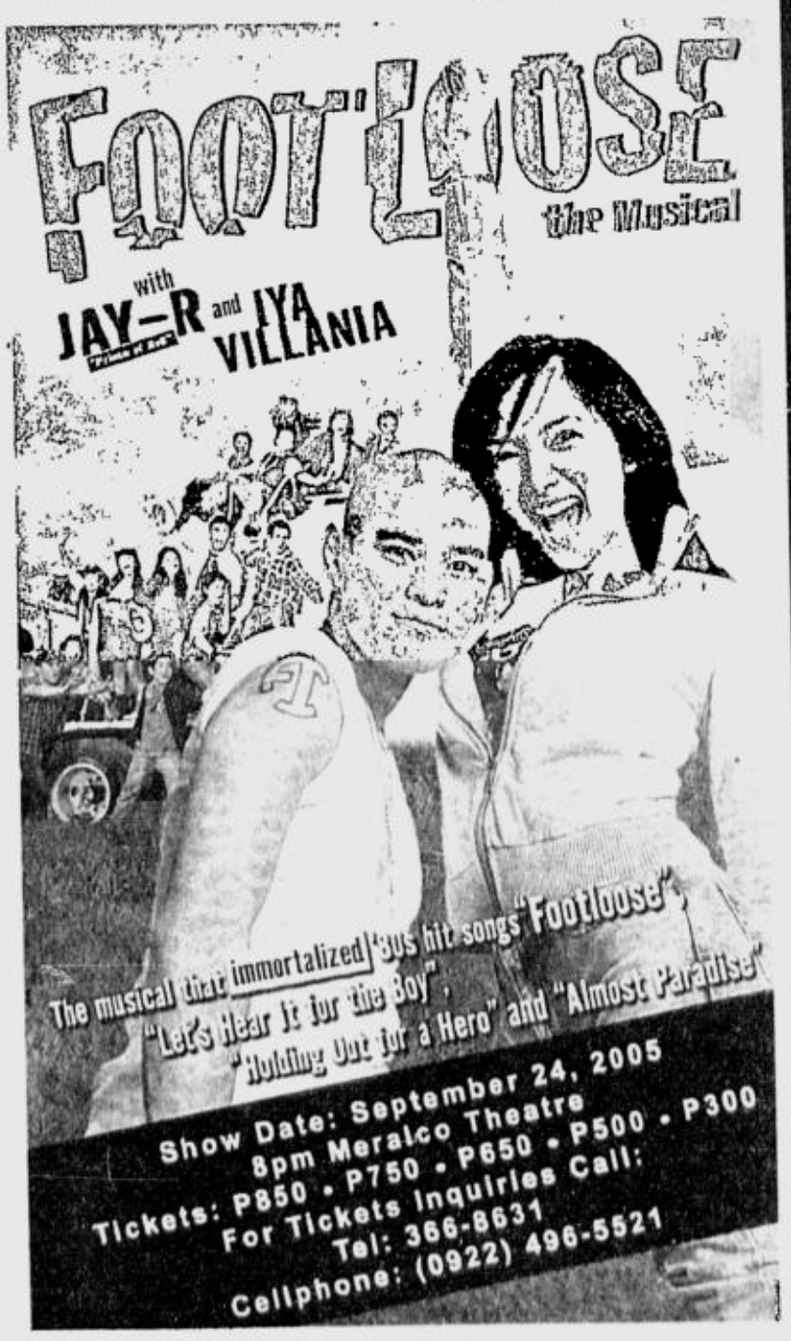
THE FOUR Notes, a group of jazz music lovers formed in the 1960s, are back to entertain their loyal fans. Noemi Chico, Rex Grupo, Danny San Jose and Noel Mercado star in "Reunited: The Four Notes and Friends"—with another group called Sonata—tonight at Merk's Bar & Restaurant, Greenbelt, Makati.

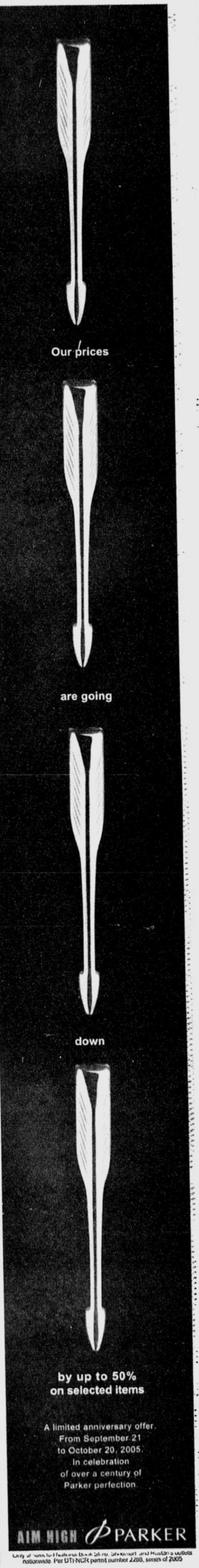
The Big Dome at last

SEPT. 30 will be a very big day for Sarah Geronimo. The 17-year-old at last stages her first solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

"The Other Side" will feature guests Mark Bautista and Piolo Pascual. A repeat is set Oct. 15, 8 p.m. at the Waterfront Hotel Lahug in Cebu City.

"This is a dream come true," says the perky platinum recording star.





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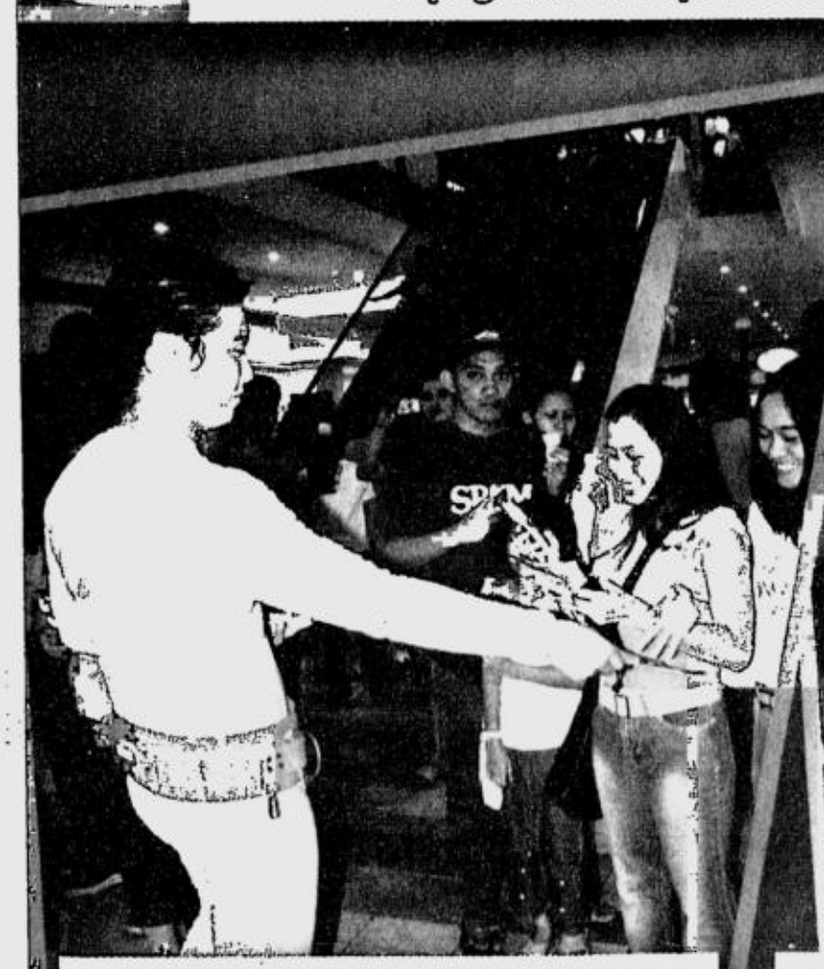

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MRT 3 buyout seen costing gov't $600M

But long-term savings to reach $2B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT needs to raise some $600 million to acquire the assets and equity of Metro Rail Transit Corp., operator of the MRT-3 that plies the stretch of Edsa.

Transportation Undersecretary Guiling Mamondiong said that based on a recent computation of MRT 3, the net present value of the assets and equity of MRTC this year would be $571 million.

Mamondiong said the agency would formally recommend to Malacañang to buy out MRT 3 from MRTC. He said the move would relieve the government of almost $2 billion in interest payments to the consortium.

The net present value of the contract with MRT, he said, included a 15-percent return on interest for the Fil-Estate led consortium, which the government would like to bring down to about 9 percent.

An inter-agency group created by Malacañang last month to study the buyout of MRTC plans to issue about $300 million in bonds to finance the prepayment.

Buying out MRTC would give the government about $1.7 billion in savings for the remaining life of the 25-year build-lease-and-transfer contract or until 2025, Mamondiong said.

The government will save by not having to pay interest to MRTC over the remaining life of the contract, which is about 20 years. For the MRTC consortium, which includes Ayala Corp., Ramcar Inc. and Anglo-Phil, a buyout can mean getting a return on their equity now instead of over a 20-year period.

Mamondiong said that if it was up to the DOTC, the agency would prefer to borrow in pesos or to just get the money from the national budget.

He said the DOTC would propose to include the buyout of MRTC in the 2007 General Appropriations Act. The budget proposal for 2006 was already submitted to Congress.

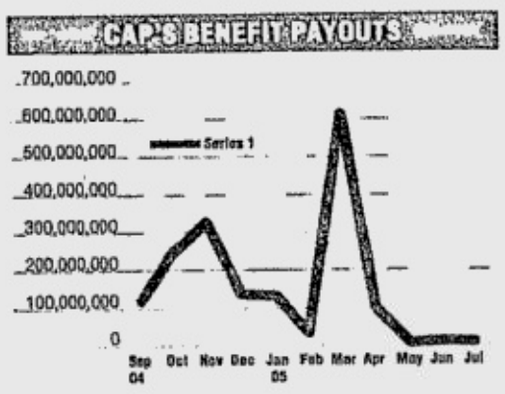
"Maybe we can get the money from tax payments," the official said. But this is easier said than done considering that the government remains hobbled by a yawning fiscal deficit.

Prepaying MRTC had been proposed during the time of Estrada when the government renegotiated the contract with the private group.

MRT 3 BUYOUT/ B8

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales: BIR sniffs into Victoria's secrets /B3
Napocor rates seen to rise by 19¢/kWh /B14



CAP: From pre-need's poster boy to whipping boy

By Daxim L. Lucas and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN PHILIPPINES Inc. (CAP) is the biggest and most successful pre-need firm in the country's history.

It is also well on its way to becoming one of the country's biggest corporate failures.

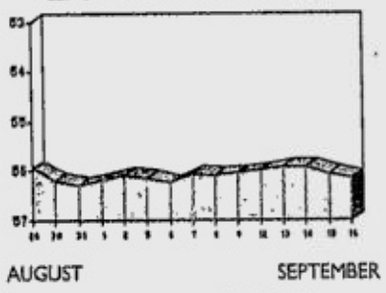
In its death throes, CAP threatens to drag down with it a multi-billion-peso industry, more than 40 pre-need companies, and the financial fortunes of millions of clients who hinged their futures on the promise of guaranteed returns.

To be sure, the company has performed well in the past, having paid out an estimated P13.9 billion in tuition benefits since its in-

CAP/ B12

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2005

¥ 110.66 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2005

GOLD: $449.00-449.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B8)

Quiet trading seen

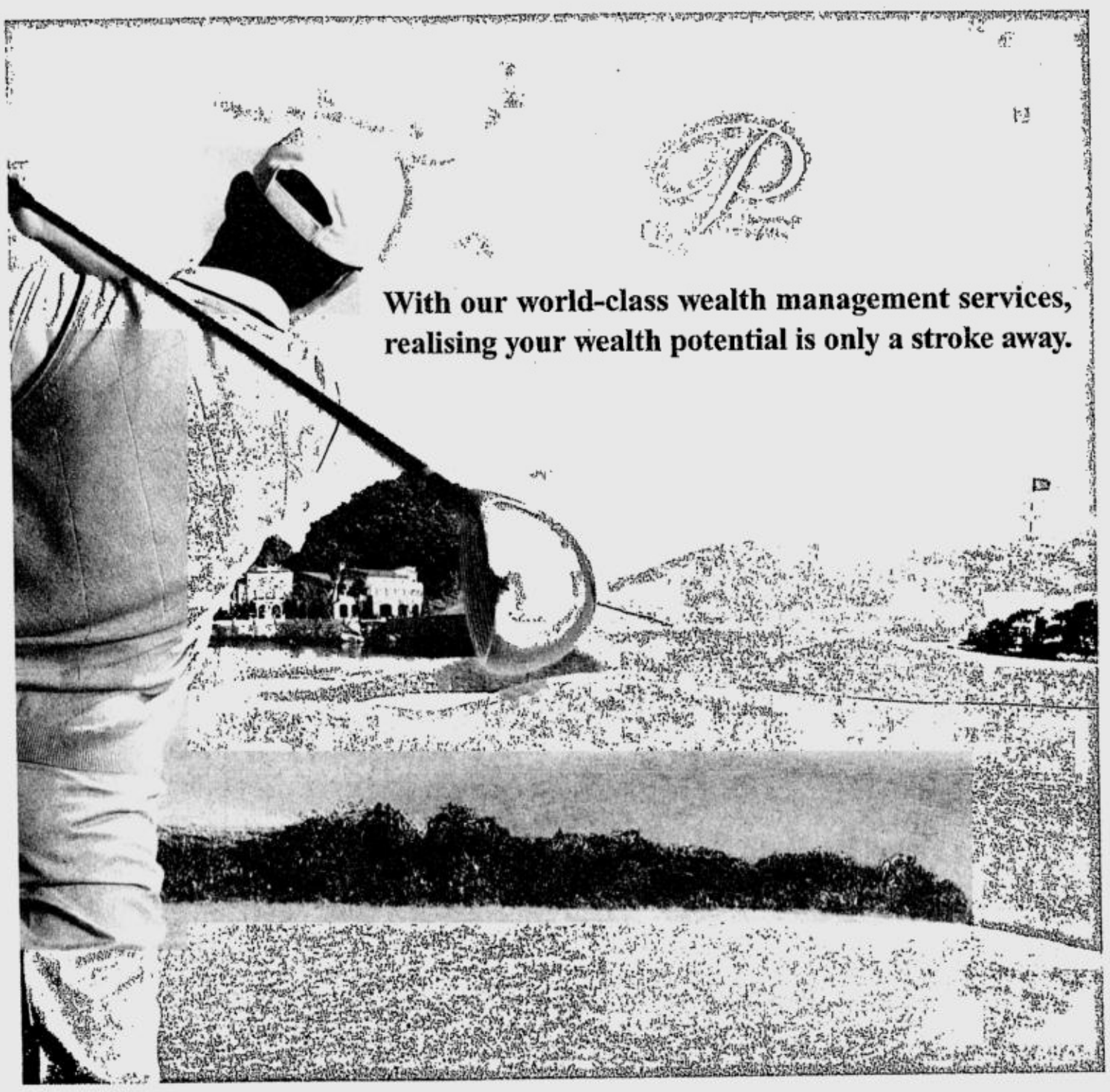
STOCK TRADING IS STILL FORECAST TO remain quiet this week due to expectations of higher interest rates and oil prices.

Also seen to dampen interest is the resumption of politicking following moves by the opposition to file a motion for reconsideration before the House of Representatives on their failed impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Investors will also track the Supreme Court ruling that finally upheld the expanded value-added tax law.

"Investors are watching out how the new tax measure will translate to price hikes in fuel (and other goods/services) and its possible impact on consumption," BPI Trade said in its weekly report.

QUIET/ B5



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Mindanao agri-fisheries investment forum: Top 9 commodities

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

THE MINDANAO AGRI-FISHERIES investment forum held recently in Davao City highlighted nine priority commodities that the Department of Agriculture would promote all over the country.

Banana, coconut, coffee, mango, palm oil, poultry, rubber, seaweeds, and tilapia were chosen based on their potential for export and market expansion.

In keeping with the theme, "On the road to progress: Invest in Mindanao", market updates and government schemes to support these agricultural products were presented to encourage more investments, establish a local and international network and raise the quality of farm produce.

The Mindanao Agri-Fisheries Investment Forum deviated from the usual policy formulation, resolutions and agreements, and focused primarily on the proposed action plans for all stakeholders.

The significant role of Mindanao in the overall development of the agri-fisheries sector has always been stressed.

Its vast land—mostly devoted to agriculture—is the country's major source of agricultural products, accounting for more than 1/3 of the pie. This is why Mindanao has always been referred to as the "food basket" of the Philippines.

Of the nine priority commodities, let us look closer at three industries: seaweeds, rubber and palm oil, which are relatively less associated with Mindanao, compared to fruits and fish.

Eucheuma of the red algae is a variety of seaweed that accounts for 98 percent of total Philippine production of seaweeds.

As a source of carrageenan, one of the world's foremost food and industrial additives, Eucheuma is a valuable export to countries like Japan, United States, and Denmark.

In the United States alone, our country exported 11,985 tons of carageenan valued at $54 million. In 2004, the Philippines produced 1.2 million metric tons of seaweeds, of which Mindanao contributed 685,440.7 metric tons or 56.9 percent of total production.

The bulk of the production in Mindanao came from Western Mindanao, where there are stretches of shoreline suitable for growing seaweed.

However, despite the stronger grip on the international seaweed market, our industry still requires improvements in many areas.

Problems such as low farm productivity, poor quality of seaweed, high marketing costs, inadequate research and development, and lack of post-harvest and drying facilities prevent the Philippines from conquering the exports market.

One reason is that the industry is dominated by small growers. They live in poor coastal areas and rely on seaweed farming for their income.

Thus, it is imperative for government and business support groups to extend assistance and provide basic needs of the small farmers requiring technical expertise, facilities, credit access, and linkages.

Nowadays, it is not just the government that undertakes projects to assist seaweed farmers, but also the international support agencies, like the USAID, that have identified the great export potential of carrageenan.

Similar to the seaweeds industry, the rubber planters in the Philippines are mostly small. On average, a farmer owns three to ten hectares of land devoted to rubber trees.

The majority of our country's rubber produce, 70 percent, is absorbed by the tire and footwear industries. Currently, the Philippines is producing 88,000 metric tons of dry rubber per year, equivalent to just 1.06 percent of world production. Last year, 43,305 metric tons of natural rubber exported to neighboring Asian countries were valued at $34.49 million.

There is still a lot of room for the rubber industry to grow.

The total available area for rubber farm expansion in Mindanao was estimated at around 52,000 hectares, but the actual suitable area is over 300,000 hectares. These are mostly in Central Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

To provide the needed planting materials for rubber, bud wood gardens and nurseries have to be put up. This represents another investment opportunity.

The global rubber industry has nowhere to go but up. Rubber prices continue to increase at an estimated rate of 3-5 percent a year until 2015.

With the government cashing in on the growth by extending assistance to farmers and investors, rubber farms in Mindanao are seen expanding in the near future.

Meanwhile, the local market is the target of the palm oil industry, as opposed to the other priority commodities.

Palm oil is popular because it is cheaper than coconut oil and can be reused several times, as generally preferred by institutional buyers.

It is commonly used as raw material to produce cooking oil, margarine and shortening, ice cream, non-dairy creamer, soap and detergent, cosmetics, candles, pharmaceuticals and animal feeds, to name a few.

With such varied uses, the demand for palm oil grows by 2.18 percent a year, outstripping available supply, resulting in a shortfall of about 40,000 metric tons.

Incidentally, oil palm plantations are concentrated in Mindanao. Region XIII accounts for 53 percent of the total, followed by Region XII, 27 percent.

To correct some confusing notions, oil palm is the tree, while palm oil is the processed product.

Crude palm oil (CPO) and palm kernel oil (PKO) are produced from the fruit of the oil palm. Currently, Philippines imports 98,026 metric tons of palm oil, valued at $49.72 million a year, due to the shortage of local supply.

The opportunities in this industry lie in

MINDANAO/B7

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[1] Source: IDC Competitive Analysis, Worldwide Branded Tape 1Q04-4Q04 Vendor Analysis (May 2005).

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- The Economist, 27 August 2005

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The review course will have 24 sessions covering Quantitative Methods, Economics and Financial Statement Analysis, Asset Valuation and Portfolio Management. The methodology centers on discussing the Learning Outcome Statements as captured by the lecturer's presentation and features intensive quizzes and exercises to familiarize participants with the CFA examination process. Classes will be held every Tuesday from 6 pm to 9 pm at the AIM Campus, Makati City.

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BIR sniffs into Victoria's secrets

LIKE BEES TO HONEY, THE multibillion-peso inheritance received by corporate lawyer Victoria delos Reyes has attracted the attention of the cash-strapped Bureau of Internal Revenue.

No less than acting Revenue chief Jose Mario Buñag has taken personal interest in the case, after reading that Delos Reyes, a legal ethics lecturer, declared that the estate of her late aunt, Pacita Ongsiako delos Reyes-Phillips, was worth only P100 million, instead of the conservative P2-3 billion estimate by other estate claimants.

In addition to what had been reported in previous columns, Delos

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Reyes failed to also disclose that her fabulously wealthy aunt owned an apartment in San Francisco near Union Square as well as several tracts of land in Nevada, according to lawyer Vicente Chuidian.

Besides Chuidian, who represents the retired US-based husband of the late billionaire, restau-

COCKTALES/ B6

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Bidding for Manila Gas assets fails anew

By Michelle V. Remo

THE AUCTION OF the two pieces of property of Manila Gas Corp. last week, a move through which the deficit-beleaguered government expected to raise an estimated P776 million, again failed due to lack of interested bidders.

The government, currently on an aggressive mode to privatize state assets to raise revenues, has placed the Manila Gas assets in this year's privatization list since these were no longer generating economic gains.

Officials were hoping the auction would attract several real estate developers, including those engaged in the establishment of malls, considering the geographic potential of the properties.

The auction of the two pieces of property, both located in Paco, Manila, only attracted one bidder—Robinsons Land Corp.

Manila Gas is one of the firms established by state-run National Development Co. (NDC), the government's investment arm. Manila Gas, which ceased operations in 2002 and is now only concentrating on selling its assets, was engaged in the distribution of liquefied petroleum gas.

An official from the NDC said the state-owned firm would set another schedule for the bidding for the Manila Gas assets two to three weeks from now. The source added that the NDC expected Robinsons Land to again participate in the bidding, as well as Ayala Land Inc.

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AS LONG AS TEN YEARS

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Kalayaan Hall 3, Club Filipino
Eisenhower cor., Club Filipino Ave.
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

SANTA BARBARA LUXURY ESTATE
Mission Hills, Antipolo
RESIDENTIAL LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
1,326sqm	P5,288,700
1,000sqm	P3,778,250

KINGSWOOD TOWER
Metropolitan Ave., Makati
RESIDENTIAL CONDO

FLOOR AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
77sqm	P2,487,100
77sqm	P2,618,000
77sqm	P2,748,900

VILLAS DE GUADALUPE
Makati
3 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

FLOOR AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
144..28sqm	P 4,300,000
145.9sqm	P 3,837,000
152.6sqm	P 4,600,000

THE SHANGHAI TOWER
San Antonio Vill., Makati
RESIDENTIAL CONDO
(w/ Rental Income)

FLOOR AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
35.64sqm	P 997,920
52.52sqm	P 1,470,560
70.83sqm	P 1,983,240
87.67sqm	P 2,454,760

TOWN & COUNTRY NORTH
Marilao, Bulacan
VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
114 sqm	P 250,800
130 sqm	P 286,000
228 sqm	P 501,000

B.F. HOMES LAS PINAS
Venice St., Las Piñas
VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
113 sqm.	P 835,000
224 sqm.	P 1,656,000
230 sqm.	P 1,950,000

RODEO COUNTRYSIDE SUBD.
Metro, Tagaytay
RESIDENTIAL FARM LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
900sqm	P 850,000
925sqm	P 864,875
1,000sqm	P 1,275,000

CANYON WOODS
Tagaytay
RESORT RESIDENTIAL LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
300sqm	P 1,800,000
405sqm	P 2,430,000
557sqm	P 3,342,000
630sqm	P 3,780,000

VISTA DE LORO PUERTO AZUL
Ternate, Cavite
RESORT CONDO UNIT

FLOOR AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
62.89sqm	P 1,336,200
81.86sqm	P 1,739,100

LAS TERRASAS SUBD.
Davao City
RESIDENTIAL LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
300sqm	P 828,750
440sqm	P 1,972,850
510sqm	P 2,004,938
600sqm	P 2,601,000

PARADISE VALLEY
Calauan, Laguna
RESIDENTIAL FARM LOT

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
2,453sqm	P 2,929,100
3,365sqm	P 4,018,800
5,862sqm	P 7,000,600

XAVIER ESTATE
Cagayan de Oro City
RESIDENTIAL LOT

FLOOR AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
284sqm	P 724,200
600sqm	P 1,683,000
669sqm	P 1,876,800
969sqm	P 2,718,300

ANTIPOLO CITY

ATB_RZL011 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,400 sqm
GOLDEN HOMES SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,018,200

ATB_RZL014 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL
L.A. 1,748
Sto. Rosario St., MILAGRO SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,370,000

LBP_ANT001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,454sqm
Westminter, Town & Country Estate
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,226,200

LBP_ANT002 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,000sqm
Sta. Monica II CLASSIC ESTATE SUBD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,200,650

LBP_ANT003 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 336sqm
EMERALD HILLS SUBD. Bo. Sta. Cruz
MIN. BID PRICE: P 472,600

CALOOCAN

EWB_CAL001 - VACANT LOT
LA 2,375 sqm
Saranay BAGUMBONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,087,500

EWB_CAL003 - VACANT LOT
LA 1,342 sqm
Saranay BAGUMBONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,744,600

LAS PIÑAS

CSB_LPS031 TOWNHOUSE
L.A 60sqm.
OLIVAREZ-GUEVARRA SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,500,000.00

MAKATI CITY

CSB_MKT 002 - 2 UNIT APRT BLDG
L.A 240sqm F.A 109sqm
Along Escuela St. GUADALUPE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000.00

EWB_MKT004 - OFFICE CONDO
LA 277.63 sqm w/ PRKNG
The World Center Tower, Gil Puyat
MIN. BID PRICE: P 15,275,200.00

LBP_MKT001 OFFICE CONDO
F.A 35.01sqm
CITYLAND CONDO 10, Tower II
MIN. BID PRICE: P 853,400

ATB_MKT001 - 4 LEVEL TOWNHOUSE
L.A 210.79 sqm.
MAKATI PRIME CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,100,000

MALABON

CSB_MLB 04 - WARE HOUSE BLDG
L.A 1,000sqm F.A 393sqm
BRGY. PANGULO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

MANDALUYONG CITY
(SHAW & WACKWACK)

LBP_MND001 RESIDENTIAL CONDO
F.A 174sqm w/ Parking Slot
WACK WACK Rd. Condo.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,525,900

LBP_MND002 RESIDENTIAL CONDO
F.A 297.66sqm w/ Parking slot
PINNACLE CONDO, Wack-Wack Rd.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 12,580,000.00

LBP_MND003 3 STORY TOWN HOUSE
F.A 68.48sqm
SHAW BLVD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,749,375.00

MANILA

PDB_MLA005 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
LA 464.79 sqm
HARBOR CENTER industrial park
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,600,000

PDB_ MLA006 - 2 COMMERCIAL CONDO
FA 224.73 sqm & FA 389.60 (G/F & 2/F)
F. Agoncillo St. cor. Pedro Gil, ERMITA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 13,608,000

MUNTINLUPA

ATB_MUN002- HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 405 sqm. F.A. 476 sqm.
PLEASANT VILL.. Putatan
MIN. BID PRICE: P4,000,000

CSB_MUN029 - SCHOOL BLDG.
TOTAL LOT L.A: 3,659 sqm.
Along Roman A. Cruz, SOLDIERS HILLS SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 54,000,000.00

PDB_MUN007 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,400 sqm (near MACRO)
Bo. Sucat Int. EAST SERVICE ROAD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,400,000

PDB_ MUN008 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 2,092 sqm (near MACRO)
Bo. Sucat Int. EAST SERVICE ROAD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 12,552,000

CTB_MUN 003 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 433.20sqm
Saint Mary St. SAN JOSE SUBD. Cupang
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,250,000

PASAY

ATB_PSY003 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO.
F.A 120 95sqm
SUNSET VIEW, ROXAS BLVD..
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000

PDB_PSY009 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 103.60 sqm
St. Francis, BO. MARICABAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 259,750

PARANAQUE

CTB_PRQ 001 7 UNIT TOWN HOUSE
L.A 330sqm (UNFINISHED)
AIRPORT VILLAGE, MOONWALK
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,400,000

CTB_PRQ 002 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 217sqm
Sampaguita St. SOUTHGREEN PARK
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000

LBP_PRQ001 RSDL CONDO UNIT
F.A 360.71sqm
CLEVELAND TOWER, Asia Word
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,197,850

LBP_PRQ002 RSDL CONDO UNIT
F.A 333.20sqm
WASHINGTON TOWER, Asia Word
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,496,600

LBP_PRQ003 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A 386sqm F.A 293sqm
Sycamore St. MARCELO GREEN VILLA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,697,100

ORTIGAS CENTER

RL_PSG086 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO (WD RENTAL INCOME)
F.A 128 sqm w/ Parking
AIC GOLD TOWER
Back of Robinsons Galleria
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,840,000

PASIG CITY

LBP_PSG001 RSDL CONDO UNIT
F.A 122.83sqm
Chateau Verde Condo. E. Rodriguez Jr.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,060,000

QUEZON CITY

MU_QC087 - TOWNHOUSE
F.A 343.25 sqm w/ Parking
10th St., NEW MANILA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 13,725,000

MU_QC110 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 46.61 sqm w/ mezzanine
PARC 15th Condo 15th Ave., Cubao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,200,000

ATB_QC004 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 4,341 sqm.
In front of RESIDENCIA SUBD., Camarin
MIN. BID PRICE: P 30,367,000

ATB_QC005 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 3,434 sqm.
In front of RESIDENCIA SUBD., Camarin
Min. Bid Price P 24,038,000

ATB_QC006 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 270 sqm.
C. Francisco St., North Susana Vill
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,700,000

ATB_QC007 - 2-STRY TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 58.8 per unit
WEST CLASSIC GARDEN. Fairview
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,100.000

ATB_QC008 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO.
F.A 90.52 sqm.
Unit 8D- ATHERTON BLDG.
Min. Bid Price P2,715,000

CSB QC030 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO.
F.A 67.87 sqm. (4 units available)
NEAR GATEWAY MALL
REGALLIA TOWER ,
P. TUASON cor EDSA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,000,000 / 4,000,000

CSB_QC007 - MIX-USE CONDO UNIT
F.A 36.20sqm
SAN JOSE CONDO. II , Sikatuna Vill
MIN. BID PRICE: P 653,000.00

CSB_QC008 - MIX-USE CONDO UNIT
F.A 33.30sqm
SAN JOSE CONDO. II , Sikatuna Vill
MIN. BID PRICE: P 600,000.00

CSB_QC27 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 250sqm. F.A 294sqm
Primix St.,SAN FRANCISCO DEL MONTE
MIN. BID PRICE: CALL US

CSB_QC28 - VACANT LOT
L.A 628sqm.
Sta. Fe St., SAN FRANCISCO DEL MONTE
MIN. BID PRICE: CALL US

ESB_QC 001 - 3 STRY TOWN HOUSE
L.A 48.03sqm F.A 96sqm
VILLA MARIE EXEC, 19th ave., Cubao.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,950,000 00

PDB_QC012 - RSDL HOUSE & LOT
LA 618 sqm
GREENFIELDS III, Novaliches
MIN. BID PRICE: P 9,836,852.77

SAN JUAN

ATB_SJ009 - 4-STRY TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 62 sqm. F.A.187.5
No.74 (formerly 651) LITTLE BAGUIO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,600,000

CSB_SJ009 - 5 STORY BLDG
L.A 574sqm F.A 3,564 (55% FINISHED)
Hardboard cor B. Padilla St.
LITTLE BAGUIO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 28,500,000.00

RSB_SJN 001 - 3STRY TOWN HOUSE
L.A. 66sqm F.A 210sqm
Centennial Place, Horseshoe Vill.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,830,000

TAGUIG

CSB_TAG030 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 400sqm.
AFPOVI , Fort Bonifacio
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000.00

VALENZUELA

PDB_ VAL014 - RESIDENTIAL BLDG.
LA 193 sqm
BERNARDINO SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: 930,300

PDB_ VAL015 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A sqm
VIENTE REALES, Tugatog
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,115,000

BAGUIO CITY

CSB_ BGC021 - COMMERCIAL BLDG
L.A 1,705sqm F.A 2,907sqm
Kilometer 5, TRINIDAD ROAD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 40,000,000.00 + 7 Million Tax

BATAAN

CTB_BTA 004 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 581sqm
THE STRAND, Nagbalayong, Morong
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,000,000

BATANGAS

MMA_BAT089 - BEACH FRONT LOTS (GREAT DIVE SPOTS)
VERDE ISLAND, BATANGAS BAY
L.A 192 sqm
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,248,000

CSB_BAT016 - 13 PARCELS OF LAND
L.A 68,539sqm (w/ Taal View)
Brgy. Quiling, TALISAY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,854,000

EWB_BAT005- VACANT LOT
LA 10,389 sqm
Bo. Sampaguita, LIPA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,272,000 00

LBP_BAT001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 2,000sqm
Brgy. Bagong Silang CALATAGAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,675,000

LBP_BAT002 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 884sqm 2 STORY
VILLA MARIA SUBD., Lipa
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,741,250

ATB_BAT021 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 257 sqm.
RK VILLAGE, Phase I,
Bo. Sambat-Ibaba
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,068,000

ATB_BAT022 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 353 sqm.
STO. NIÑO VILLAGE, Bo. Libjo
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,059,000

LDB_BAT 016 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,869sqm
Tinga, LABAC
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,210,000

LDB_BAT 017 - FARM LOT
L.A. 7,080sqm
San Pablo, STO. TOMAS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,500,000

LDB_BAT 018 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 738sqm
Muzon, ALITAGTAG
Min. Bid Price: P 2,421,000

LDB_BAT 019 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100sqm
Independencia, LEMERY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,248,200

LDB_BAT 020 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100sqm
TIERRA ALTA, Taal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,248,200

LDB_BAT 022 - AGRI - LOT
L.A. 1,097sqm
Bagong Pook, LIPA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,500,000

LDB_BAT 023 - AGRI - LOT
L.A. 9,062sqm
Calamias, LIPA CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,150,000

LDB_BAT 025 HOSPITAL BLDG.
L.A. 2,012sqm
Gualberto Ave, ROSARIO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 13,200,000

BULACAN

CTB_BLN 008 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 2,313sqm
Brgy. Longos PULILAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,000,000

CTB_BLN 009 - 9 DR. APARTMENT
L.A 409 6sqm
Abangan Sur, MARILAO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,000,000

LBP BLN001 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A 343sqm F.A 306sqm
Bo. Saluysoy, MEYCAUAYAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,391,500

LBP_BLN001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 204sqm
Pulong Buhangin, STA MARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 208,250

LBP_BLN002 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 11,306sqm
SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,709,800

LBP_BLN003 INDL w/ WARE HOUSE
L.A 4,076sqm F.A 1,800sqm
Bo. Perez, MECAUAYAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 18,448,066

PDB_ BLN016 - COMML LOT & BLDG.
LA 334 sqm
Borol 1st, BALAGTAS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,400,000

PDB_ BLN017 - RSDL HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,867 sqm
Brgy. San Juan, BALAGTAS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,490,000

PDB_ BLN 018 - RSDL HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,444 sqm
VIRGEN DE DIOS FLORES, Baliuag
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,599,600

PDB_ BLN 019 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 240 sqm
CARMELA HOMES, Brgy. Sabang, Baliuag
MIN. BID PRICE: P 480,000

PDB_ BLN 020 - H & L w/ WAREHOUSE
LA 672 sqm
Rusila St., Tibag, BALIUAG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000

PDB_ BLN 021 - RSDL LOT & BLDG.
LA 378 sqm
Wakas St., Caingin, BOCAUE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,153,000

PDB_ BLN022 - H& L w/ 4 DR. APRT
LA 631 sqm
Malusac St., SAN JOSE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,877,500

PDB_ BLN023 - RSDL HOUSE & LOT
LA 658 sqm
TRIPLE JUNCTION SUBD. Matungao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,045,000

PDB_ BLN024 - 7 DR. APARTMENT
LA 664 sqm
Brgy. Tuktukan, GUIGUINTO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,124,000

PDB_ BLN025 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 132 sqm
MAUNLAD HOMES, Guiguinto
MIN. BID PRICE: P 500,000

PDB_ BLN026 - FISHPOND
LA 176,110 sqm
San Roque, HAGONOY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,100,000

PDB_ BLN028 - RESIDENTIAL BLDG.
LA 1,102 sqm
Santisima, PANDI
MIN. BID PRICE: P 881,000

PDB_ BLN029 - COMML LOT & BLDG.
LA 891 sqm
Brgy. Sapang Putol, SAN ILDEFONSO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,077,500

PDB_ BLN031 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 337 sqm
VINDIETA COMP. Meycauayan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,142,500

PDB_ BLN032 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 607 sqm
Hulo, MEYCAUAYAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,249,000

PDB_ BLN033 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 2,730 sqm
Bunsuran, PANDI
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,700,000

PDB_ BLN034 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 1,965 sqm
Bunsuran 1st, PANDI
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,708,000

ATB_BLN023 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 3,335 sqm.
MEYCAUAYAN INDUSTRIAL SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,337,500

ATB_BLN024 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 2,379 sqm.
MEYCAUAYAN INDUSTRIAL SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE P 5,947,500

CAVITE CITY

CSB_CVT011- 2 PARCELS OF LAND
L.A 53,332sqm
MANILA SOUTHWOODS Ph II, Carmona
MIN. BID PRICE: P 21,333,000.00

CSB_CVT012- 4 PARCELS OF LAND
L.A 76,277sqm (near Metropolitan Terrace)
Brgy. De Ocampo, TRECE MARTIREZ
MIN. BID PRICE: P 56,000,000.00

CSB_CVT013 - 2 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 7,844sqm
(near Fr. Micheal Duneher School)
Poblacion, SILANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 14,000,000.00

CSB_CVT015- HOUSE & LOT
L.A 279.5sqm F.A 108sqm
KAWIT (near Binakayan Market)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,000,000.00

EWB_CVT006 - 2 STRY RSDL DUPLEX
LA 80 sqm
Greenwoods Heights, Dasmarinas
MIN. BID PRICE: P 950,000.00

LBP_CVT001 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 250sqm 3 STOREY
ST. MICHAEL SUBD. Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,623,100

LBP_CVT002 INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A 6,030sqm
Brgy Maguyam SILANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 14,522,250

LBP_CVT003 INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A 2,330sqm
Brgy. Bucal CARMONA
MIN. BID PRICE. P 5,961,900

PDB_CVT049 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 250 sqm
METRO SOUTH SUBD. Gen. Trias
MIN. BID PRICE: P 750,000

PDB_ CVT050 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 626 sqm
Trece Martinez St. MAGALLANES
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,762,708.47

PDB_ CVT051 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 248 sqm
T & C WEST MOLINO, Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 622,500

PDB_ CVT052 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 240 sqm
COASTAL CITY, Timalan Naic
MIN. BID PRICE: P 432,000

PDB_ CVT054 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 316 sqm
ROYALE TAGAYTAY, Alfonso
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,738,000

PDB_ CVT055 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 485 sqm
US COASTAL CITY, Naic
MIN. BID PRICE: P 873,000

ATB_CVT025 - 11 TOWNHOUSE UNITS
L.A. 44 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm. per unit
GOLD RICH VILLAS, Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,500,000

ATB_CVT026 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
SOUTHPLAINS EXEC. VILLA, Dasma.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 375,000

ATB_CVT027 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
METROPOLIS GREEN, Gen. Trias
MIN. BID PRICE: P 330,000

ATB_CVT028 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 427 sqm.
EAGLE RIDGE SUBD. Gen. Trias
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,281,000

ATB 29 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 610 sqm.
EAGLE RIDGE SUBD. Gen. Trias
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,854,000

LDB_CVT026 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150sqm F.A 130sqm
GMA, S. Mendian Dasma
MIN. BID PRICE: P 522,500

CEBU

ATB CBU030 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO
TRINITY PLAZA, Gorordo Avenue
F.A. 33.97 MIN. BID PRICE: P 951,160
F.A. 53.05 MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,485,400

ILOILO

EWB_ILO007 - VACANT LOTS
LA 600 sqm (2 lots available)
Along National Hi-way, JARO
MIN BID PRICE: P 4,800,000.00 each

ISABELA

ATB_ISA032 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 15,533 sqm.
Brgy Arabiat, ECHAGUE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 932,000

ATB_ISA033 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 11,250 sqm.
Bo. Quezon, SAN ISIDRO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 765,000

ATB_ISA035 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 853 sqm City Road,
SANTIAGO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,000,000

ATB_ISA036 - 4 RESIDENTIAL LOTS
L.A. 3,184 sqm
Patul Road, SANTIAGO CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,519,000

ATB_ISA037 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 3,299 sqm.
Purok Banyag, ALICIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,319,000

LAGUNA

PDB_LGN062 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 435 sqm
PLEASANT VILLAGE, Tuntungin Putho
MIN. BID PRICE: P 652,500

PDB_ LGN063 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 150 sqm (2 Lots available)
JAMAICA HILLS SUBD., Bambang Los Baños
MIN. BID PRICE: P 525,000

PDB_ LGN064 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 490 sqm
Brgy. Anos, LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 147,000

PDB_LGN067 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 240 sqm
CUERVOVILLE SUBD. Real Calamba
MIN. BID PRICE: P 840,000

PDB_LGN068 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 240 sqm
GREEN VALLEY SUBD. San Pablo
MIN. BID PRICE: P 480,000

PDB_LGN069 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 297 sqm
CARBERN VILLAGE, Los Baños
MIN. BID PRICE: P 742,500

PDB_LGN070 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 1,174 sqm (Nat'l Rd.)
Brgy. Batong Malaki, LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,528,000

PDB_LGN071 - AGRI LOT
L.A 131,482 sqm
Brgy Sitio Sumucab, CAVINTI
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,972,000

PDB_LGN072 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 198 sqm
CHRISTOPHER II SUBD. Calamba
MIN. BID PRICE: P 297,000

PDB_ LGN073 - AGRI - LOT
L.A 9,495 sqm
Santol Laguerta, CALAMBA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,373,750

PDB_ LGN074 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,000 sqm
Chico St. CERIS SUBD. Canlubang
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,120,000

PDB_ LGN075 -L.A 490 sqm
Brgy. Anos LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 196,000

PDB_ LGN076 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 491.4 sqm
Nat'l High-way Real CALAMBA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,371,000

LDB_LGN 001 - RESIDENTIAL &
L.A. 818 COMMERCIAL LOT
LAKEVIEW SUBD., San Pablo
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,420,000

LDB_LGN 002 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 854sqm.
Baclaran, CABUYAO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 512,400

LDB_LGN 003 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 979sqm.
Bo. Ogong Sta. Cruz
MIN. BID PRICE: P 498,500

LDB_LGN 004 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 6,302sqm
Parian, CALAMBA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 12,650,000

LDB_LGN 005 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 435
Brgy. Tadlac, LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,620,000

LDB_LGN 006 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 293sqm
Mayondon, LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 448,200

LDB_LGN 007 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 1,038sqm
Mayondon, LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,950,320

LDB_LGN 008 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 12,218sqm
Brgy. Dita, LILIW
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,000,000

LDB_LGN 009 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 184sqm
San Gabriel, SAN PABLO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 404,800

LDB_LGN 010 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 150sqm
Peñafrancia Compd, SAN PABLO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 789,250

LDB_LGN 011 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 189sqm
St. Christopher 11, CANLUBANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 311,850

LDB_LGN 012 - COMMERCIAL LOT
(BUS MOTOR POOL)
L.A. 4,000sqm
ALONG NAT'L HIGHWAY
PAGSAWITAN, Sta. Cruz
MIN. BID PRICE: P 22,000,000

LDB_LGN 013 - COMMERCIAL LOT
(ACROSS COSMOS PLANT)
L.A. 2,700/2,700/4,909sqm
Brgy. Lecheria, CALAMBA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 99,000,000

LDB_LGN 014 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 720/720sqm
Brgy. Don Jose, STA. ROSA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 19,800,000

LDB_LGN 015 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 328/334/300sqm
Pob. San Vicente, SAN PEDRO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,703,700

LBP_LGN001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 547sqm (4 LOTS)
PURIFICACION ZAVALLA VILL. 3
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,721,250

LBP_LGN002 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 340sqm
Bo. Calaboso, BIÑAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,011,500

LBP_LGN003 HOUSE & LOT
L.A 6,889sqm w/ RESTAURANT
Hilltop Drive, HOLIDAY HILLS SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,048,100

PDB_LGN077 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,173 sqm
Bo. Soro - Soro BIÑAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,759,500

PDB_LGN078 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 645 sqm
AMAR SUBD. Balibago, STA. ROSA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,380,500

PDB_LGN079 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 532 sqm
F. Gomez Brgy. Kanluran 1 STA ROSA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,500,000

PDB_LGN080 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 2,000 sqm
Cabanbanan PAGSANJAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,480,000

PDB_LGN081 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 108 sqm
Rizal St Brgy Balimbingan, LUMBAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,402,000

PDB_LGN082 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,048 sqm
Jamboree, LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 104,800

PDB_LGN083 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 334 sqm
LAS VILLAS DE MANILLA Biñan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,000,000

MINDORO

PDB_MIN059 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 432 sqm
Bo. Sampaguita Victoria, ORIENTAL
MIN. BID PRICE: P 289,000

PDB_ MIN060 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 2,804 sqm
Tibag CALAPAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,700,000

NUEVA ECIJA

PDB_NE035 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 300 sqm
Bo. Bangad, CABANATUAN CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 400,000

PDB_ NE036 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 3,491 sqm
Brgy. Pula, CABANATUAN CITY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,491,000

PDB_ NE037 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 135 sqm
VILLA EMILIA SUBD. Kalikid Sur
MIN. BID PRICE: P 216,000

PDB_ NE039 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 4,216 sqm
Sto Tomas PEÑARANDA
MIN BID PRICE: P 4,216,000

PALAWAN

LBP -PLW001 INDT'S LOT w/
L.A 4,196sqm PROCESSING PLANT
Brgy. San Pedro, PUERTO PRINCESA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,272,500

PAMPANGA

CSB_PAM019 - AGRI LOT / WARE HOUSE
L.A 4,000sqm F.A 510sqm
Dudurot Rd. Brgy. Sulipan APALIT
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,050,000.00

PDB_PAM040 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 566 sqm
BAGONG PAG-ASA SUBD. San Vicente
MIN. BID PRICE: P 622,600

PDB_ PAM041 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 347 sqm
Brgy San Francisco II, MINALIN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 659,300

SB_PAM 001 - 3STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A 150sqm
B. Aquino St. Bo. Lourdes Sur East, ANGELES
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000

SB_PAM 002 - FARM LOT
L.A 16 HECTARE
Beside CHICO RIVER & MT. ARAYAT
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,600,000

SB_PAM 003 - RESIDENTIAL LOT w/ WARE HOUSE
L.A 1,486sqm F.A 500sqm
BO. DEL PILAR (Del Pilar Elem. School)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,000,000

SB_PAM 004 - VACANT LOT
L.A 3,785sqm
OLONGGAPO - GAPAN NAT'L ROAD
Cabalantian, BACOLOR
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,000,000

SB_PAM 005 - PARTIAL HOUSE & LOT
L.A 250sqm
1st AUREA SUBD. (near Cleofer School)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 900,000

SB_PAM 001 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 300sqm F.A 180sqm
4th Ave. UNISITE SUBD. Bo. Del Pilar
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,800,000

QUEZON PROVINCE

LBP_QP001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 565sqm (2 LOTS)
Bo. Gulang - Gulang LUCENA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 263,500

PDB_QP058 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 240 sqm Gulang Gulang
HERMANOS CAPISTRANO SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,268,000

PDB_ QP057 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 948 sqm Gulang-Gulang
Rosa Ext. MARILAG SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,504,000

QCP_QP001 - VARIOUS RESIDENTIAL LOTS
LA 958 sqm
Brgy. Baguio, TAYABAS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 383,200.00

QCP_QP002 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 252 sqm
PENINSULA SUBD. Pagbilao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 253,800.00

QCP_QP003 - AGRI LOT
LA 79,671 sqm
Brgy Palola, LUCBAN
MIN. BID. PRICE: P 3,200,000.00

QCP_QP004 - BEACH FRONT LOT
LA 1,139 sqm
Brgy Marao. PADRE BURGOS
MIN BID. PRICE: P 570,000.00

QCP_QP005 - AGRI LOT
LA 38,938 sqm
Brgy. Duhat, PADRE BURGOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,100,000.00

QCP_QP006 - 2 RESIDENTIAL LOTS
FA 500 sqm (Each)
Brgy. Bignay 1, SARIAYA
MIN. BID. PRICE: 1,911,750.00

LDB_QP027 - SUBDIVISION
L.A. 17,639sqm LOTS
Lusacan, Tiaong
MIN. BID PRICE: P 9,350,000

LDB_QP028 - 3 RESIDENTIAL LOTS
L.A. 6,639sqm
Brgy. Sta. Catalina, Candelaria
MIN. BID PRICE: P 331,950

LDB_QP029 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 86.50sqm
Sisa St. Lucena
MIN. BID PRICE: P 302,720

RIZAL

ATB_RZL 15 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 204 sqm.
VILLAGE EAST, Binangonan Rizal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 510,000

CSB_RZL026 - 2 LOTS W/ WAREHOUSE BLDG.
L.A 1,337sqm. & 2,491sqm F.A.
VALLEY GOLF DRIVE, Cainta
MIN. BID PRICE: P 38,700,000

LBP_RZL001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 199sqm
North Ipil St. MARIKINA HGHTS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 507,450

LBP_RZL001 1 STORY HOUSE & LOT
L.A 641sqm F.A 240sqm
MONTEREY HILLS SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,000,500

PDB_RZL042 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 1,046 sqm
AVEEMAR SUBD., Angono
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,092,000

PDB_RZL043 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 300 sqm
Delaware St. PALOS VERDE EXEC.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 900,000

PDB_ RZL044 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 668 sqm
Sunbird St. VICTORIA VALLEY SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,670,000

PDB_ RZL045 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 473 sqm
Corolla St., VILLAGE EAST
MIN. BID PRICE: P 223,100

PDB_ RZL046 - RESIDENTIAL VACANT LOT
LA 471 sqm
CARLTON VILLAGE, Bo. Manggahan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,083,300

PDB_ RZL047 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 584 sqm
GLORIA VISTA SUBD. Brgy. San Rafael
MIN. BID PRICE: P 992,000

PDB_ RZL048 - RSDL VACANT LOT
LA 600 sqm
GLORIA VISTA SUBD. Brgy San Rafael
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,020,000

CTB_RZL 005 - VARIOUS RESIDENTIAL LOTS
AQUA MONTE HGHTS. Binangonan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500 per sqm

CTB_RZL 006 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,992sqm
FRONTING VALLEY GOLF CLUB
Don Celso Tiason Ave, VALLEY GOLF
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,000,000

CTB_RZL 007 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 330sqm
Nightingale Drive, VALLEY GOLF
MIN. BID PRICE: P 9,252,000

TAGAYTAY CITY

MU_BAT085 - VACANT LOT
L.A 735 sqm w/ Taal Lake View
GEORGE TOWN VACATION ESTATE.
MIN. BID PRICE: 6,468,000

CSB_TGY017 - 3 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A (a)349sqm; (b)199sqm
TAGAYTAY NAT'L RD., ST. JOSEPH SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: (a) P 1,745,000; (b) 995,000

LBP_TGY001 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 12,673sqm
NEAR PALACE IN THE SKY & TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS
ALONG TAGAYTAY NAT'L ROAD
Barrio Sungay (now IRUHIN)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 14,883,500

ATB_TGY044 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 647 sqm.
PACIFIC HEIGHTS SUBD. Calaca
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,882,000

TARLAC

MDG_TRC088 - MANGO ORCHARD
L.A 39,324 sqm / 350 TREES
Sto. Niño
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,000,000

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Where our 2006 taxes will go

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Cielito F. Habito

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, THE government's annual budget will exceed a trillion pesos (P1.053 trillion) next year. The proposed 2006 budget is now in the hands of Congress for them to deliberate on, and hopefully approve before the end of the year. Below are some of its interesting highlights.

Questionable assumptions

Underlying the budget proposal are assumptions on what key macroeconomic variables will be like next year. When the proposed budget was originally drawn up earlier this year, the government was obviously expecting a far rosier picture for 2006 than now seems plausible. For example, GDP is projected to grow by 6.3 to 7.4 percent next year, against a projected 5.3-6.1 percent this year. Inflation rate will average 7.5 percent, lower than the 7.9 percent expected this year. The exchange rate will be P55-57 to the dollar, same as projected this year. And the average price of crude oil assumed is $53.64 per barrel, against this year's projection of $48.95.

Not surprisingly, members of Congress have already questioned these assumptions. While the inflation and exchange rate assumptions may still be within striking range, those for GDP growth and crude oil price seem way out of line. The Asian Development Bank has recently downscaled its 2005 growth projection to 4.7 percent; our Ateneo forecast is 4.6-5.3 percent. With the world economy slowing down, Philippine GDP growth next year cannot be expected to be much better. Meanwhile, everyone knows that crude oil price is now hovering near $70 a barrel, and most analysts assert that those high prices are here to stay. Both of these questionable assumptions can have profound implications on both revenues and expenditures next year.

Debt service

The single biggest item in the budget will again be interest payments for debt, which will cost P340 billion, or about one-third (32.3 percent) of the budget. But this does not give a complete picture. One must add to this the P382 billion to be paid to amortize the debt principal, leading to total debt payments of P722 billion next year. Compared to projected government revenues of P969 billion, which I have argued before to be rather ambitious to the point of incredibility ("Deeper in debt," NFL 8-29-05), the implication is that the equivalent of 75 percent of revenues will be paid out to service government debt. For the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant alone, debt payments will take up P1.84 billion next year, or more than P5 million a day.

Declining shares

Net of interest payments for debt, education gets the biggest share (13.9 percent) of the national government budget, in keeping with the Constitution. The bad news is that this share continues to decline, being 14.74 percent in 2005 and 14.85 percent in 2004. More bad news: the share of health services, at a meager 1.3 percent, will also decline further from the 1.41 percent this year and 1.67 percent last year.

Other sectors getting progressively smaller shares of the budget are agriculture and agrarian reform (2.61 percent, from 3.28 and 2.82 percent last year and this year respectively); trade and industry (0.29 percent,

NO FREE LUNCH/B6

Quiet . . .

From page B1

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 27 points or 1.4 percent last week to 1,909.8 mainly on bargain hunting.

Leading the market higher were Globe Telecom, Ayala Corp., First Holdings, SMC, BPI, Equitable PCI, ICTSI, Metrobank and Ayala Land.

Grace Cerdenia of 2TradeAsia.Com, said local players have largely discounted monetary authorities' early warning of potential increases in local interest rates.

"The only argument for now is the extent and acceptability of prospective increases, especially for enterprises that have yet to build their revenue sources to offset increasing costs," Cerdenia wrote in a weekly report. She said investors would also likely buy when the index stabilizes between 1,870 and 1,900. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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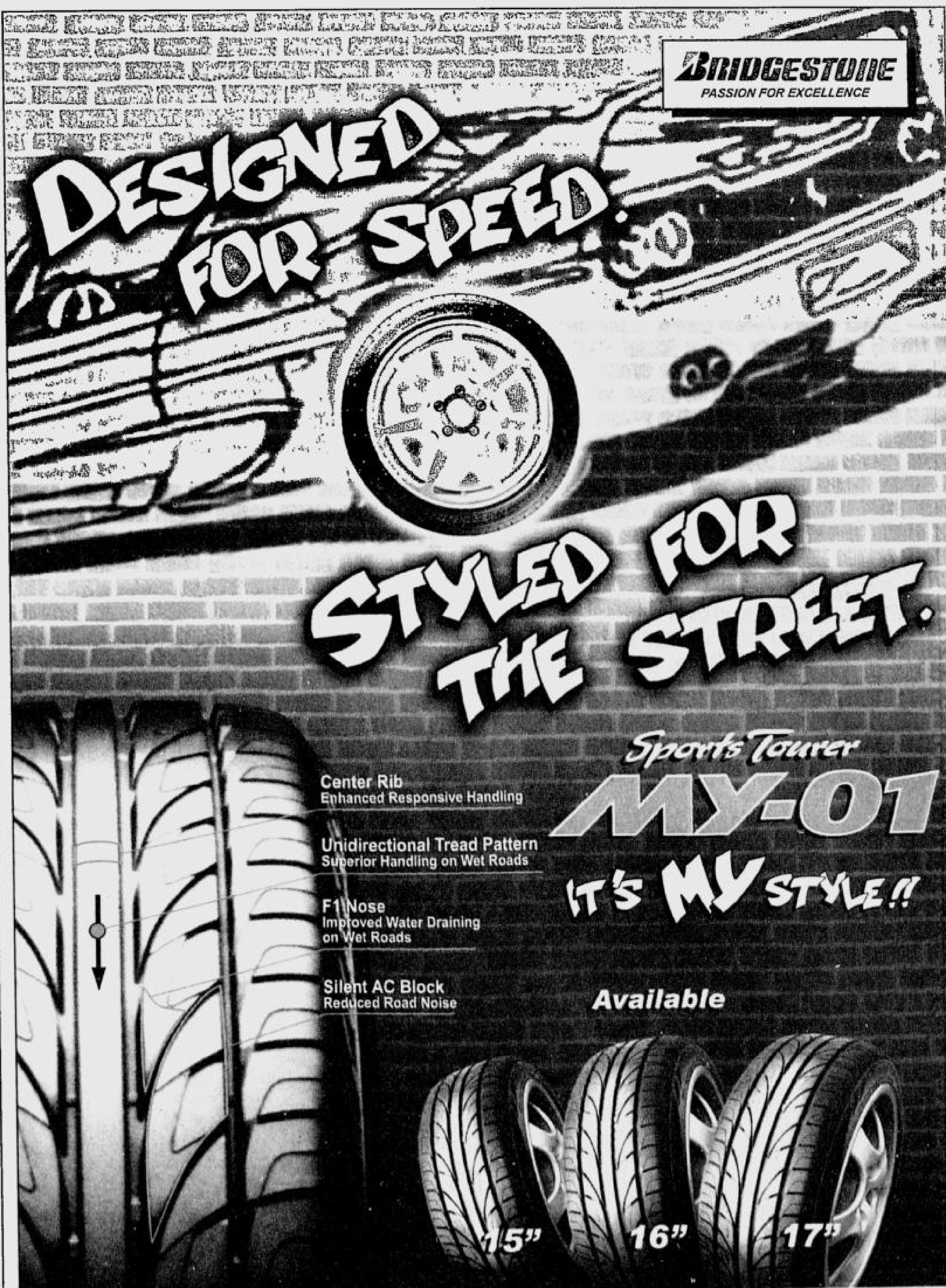

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 114
Series of 2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE

FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN EQUITY FUND, INC.

Registrant

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN EQUITY FUND, INC. the Commission in its meeting of September 2, 2005, resolved to approve the registration of said corporation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its One Hundred Million (100,000,000) common shares under the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, subject to the inclusion of the attached Risk Disclosure Statement in the company's final prospectus.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities For Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER within five (5) days thereof.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

September 6, 2005.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 115
Series of 2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE

FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.

Registrant

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN FIXED INCOME FUND, INC. the Commission in its meeting of September 2, 2005, resolved to approve the registration of said corporation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its Two Hundred Million (200,000,000) common shares under the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, subject to the inclusion of the attached Risk Disclosure Statement in the company's final prospectus.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities For Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER within five (5) days thereof.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

September 6, 2005.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

No Free Lunch

From page B5

from 0.40 and 0.33 percent); land distribution (0.42 percent, from 0.85 and 0.48 percent), and public order and safety (5.74 percent, from 6.14 and 5.92 percent). Subsidies to LGUs will also receive a smaller share for both economic services (5.53 percent against this year's 5.78 percent) and social services (5.85 percent from this year's 6.11 percent).

On the other hand, favored with higher allocations are infrastructure (7.81 percent against 6.72 percent this year), defense (4.98 percent from this year's 4.81 percent), housing (0.26 from 0.19 percent), social security, welfare and employment (5.56 from 4.36 percent) and general administration (translation: government salaries) which will get 4.59 percent from this year's 4.49 percent.

Regional breakdown

On the geographical allocation, Metro Manila will receive the biggest share of the aggregate budget (3.72 percent), followed by Western Visayas (3.26 percent), Central Luzon (2.96 percent) and Calabarzon (2.82 percent). Receiving the lowest shares are Mimaropa (0.99 percent), Cordillera Administrative Region (1.08 percent), Caraga (1.33 percent) and Western Mindanao (1.41 percent).

Infrastructure allocation as exemplified by the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) gives the biggest shares to Metro Manila (9.57 percent), Caraga (5.03 percent), Ilocos (4.37 percent), and Western Visayas (2.93 percent). On the other hand, the smallest shares go to the rest of the Mindanao regions, with shares ranging from 0.21 percent (ARMM) to 1.47 percent (Northern Mindanao). Mindanao as a whole gets about 10 percent of the total DPWH budget. I still recall how the Ramos administration managed to jack up Mindanao's share in the infrastructure budget from 10 percent in 1992 to close to 30 percent by the mid-'90s. As Neda director general then, I used to cite this fact in many of my Mindanao speeches at the time. I'm disappointed to learn it's now back to where we started then.

Too bad, this is one set of Mindanao numbers not even Garci can adjust upwards.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Cocktales

From page B3

rateur George Sison, brother of Bro. Eddie Villanueva spokesman Luis Sison, has agreed to represent the Sisons in seeking the return of about P100 million worth of family jewelry that have allegedly been made part of the Delos Reyes-Phillips estate.

The jewelry represents gifts allegedly given by the late Sison patriarch to Delos Reyes-Phillips during their decades-long friendship, gifts that Delos Reyes-Phillips, a pre-war Miss Philippines, allegedly ordered returned to the Sison children among her last wishes.

In the meantime, the glacial pace of Philippine justice was highlighted Friday when the scheduled hearing was again cancelled, the second such cancellation after only one session heard by Makati RTC Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo.

To compound the delay, Delos Reyes wants the court to suspend the probate hearings by first questioning the authority of Chuidian to represent Ralph Phillips, the octogenarian widower.

Chuidian, on the other hand, had earlier sought the recall of the court's appointment of Delos Reyes as executrix, claiming that she had misled the judge by neglecting to inform the court that the late billionaire had a surviving spouse.

In addition, Chuidian accused Delos Reyes, a name partner of Roxas Delos Reyes Laurel & Rosario law firm, of having flown to the United States and hastily withdrawing $400,000 from her aunt's joint bank account without informing the US tax authorities that her aunt had already passed away.

Audi brings in muscle

THE GERMAN automaker Audi is bringing in additional legal artillery to complement the diplomatic moves in its bogged-down battle with the legal-savvy tactics of its former local partner, the Proton/Auto Prominence Group.

According to the grapevine, Audi chief counsel Dr. Martin Wagener and his deputy, Susan Weber, are coming over to Manila to confer with German Ambassador Axel Weishaupt over the "wild, wild West" style of judicial justice that had been inflicted by the Pangasinan Regional Trial Court even on the Germany-based Audi board members.

Alaminos Judge Jules Mejia approved the issuance of warrants of arrest for the entire Audi board, despite none of them having signed the dealership contract with the Proton/Auto Prominence Group.

With the issuance of arrest warrants, Proton/Auto Prominence Group went to town, and plastered the faces of the Audi board members in "wanted" ads in the newspapers.

Despite its Makati address, the Proton/Auto Prominence Group sued Audi in Pangasinan, claiming that the Proton/Auto Prominence offices are based in that northern province by virtue of its assembly plant in Alaminos.

As it turned out, the Proton/Auto Prominence Group has not secured a single business permit in Alaminos since 1997, after it shut down its Alaminos plant as a result of the regional currency crisis.

Worse, the Alaminos plant never even applied for a building permit despite its brief operation, according to the City Engineer's Office.

Money-go-round

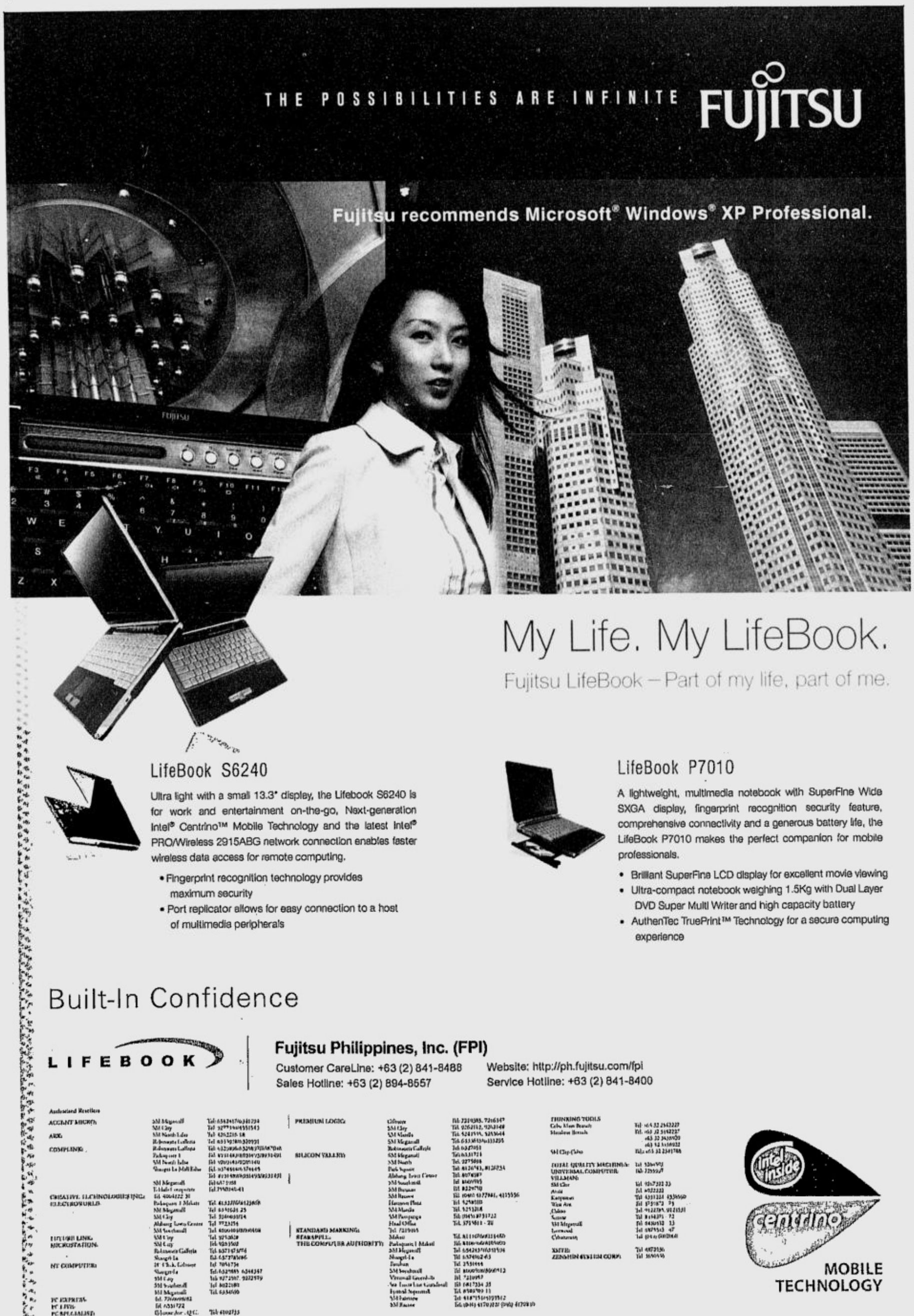
- NORTHWEST says its operations in the Philippines and the region will remain unaffected by the airline seeking bankruptcy protection. Northwest is in fact even racheting up its marketing operations in the country, one of the more profitable sectors of the beleaguered airline.
- SAMSUNG has announced a 20-percent cut in the price of LCD-screen television sets starting next month, with its new seventh-generation plant now ramping up production of the hot-selling flat TVs.

Heard through the grapevine

THE RIVALRY between acting BIR chief Jose Mario Buñag and Deputy Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares is threatening the fragile collection efforts of the revenue agency.

What is complicating the situation is that both are GMA appointees.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)



Gov't plans to lower GDP growth target for 2006

By Michelle V. Remo

GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO lower its 2006 gross domestic product growth target to only 5.7 percent, which it considers to be a more realistic figure given the spiraling oil prices.

The original GDP growth target for 2006 ranges from 6.3 to 7.3 percent. The National Economic and Development Authority earlier said the initial target was based on the assumption that Dubai crude would average at only $48.9 a barrel next year.

Dubai crude, the benchmark used in determining oil prices in the Philippines, stood at $54.75 a barrel as of Sept. 14.

Sharp increases in oil prices tend to affect GDP growth. Higher oil prices may force consumers to restrict spending for other products. GDP, which is partly boosted by government and consumer spending, is the total value of final goods and services produced in an economy in a given period. It is the main tool used to measure an economy's growth or decline.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the technical level of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) would recommend to the committee's cabinet level the revision of the 2006 GDP growth target to 5.7 percent.

The cabinet level is expected to meet this month to adopt new macroeconomic targets.

DBCC is the interagency body that is tasked with setting the government's economic policies and targets. It is composed of the Neda, the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management.

Also, the DBCC is undertaking simulations on what the economic growth figure for next year will be, given a higher or a lower average oil price.

The DBCC is looking at the middle-ground scenario with oil prices averaging at $60 a barrel, Beltran said of the decision in revising the GDP growth target for 2006.

Vehicle trade perks ironed out

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is expanding the coverage of the Automotive Export Program to include buses, motorcycles and completely knocked down kits in an effort to entice more investors to the program.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said that government experts are working on details of a third AEP amendment, which is laid out in Executive Order No. 244.

EO No. 244 provides incentives for the direct export of completely built units at a minimum volume of 10,000 units yearly, each of which should be worth at least $5,000.

"This package would have an indirect benefit to auto parts manufacturers," Hernandez said.

So far, Ford Motor Co. Philippines, which registered with the AEP since 2002, is the only exporter of CBUs.

As of August this year, its cumulative exports reached 32,000 units and valued at $420 million.

Mindanao

From page B2

the expansion of oil palm plantations by at least 12,000 hectares a year; setting up of nurseries with planting density of 125-150 trees a hectare; and the establishment of an oil mill, which requires about 5,000-10,000 hectares of oil palm plantation.

The DA has proposed a strategy to produce and consume locally-made palm oil, and for Philippine companies to export the higher-priced coconut oil.

To achieve this, the government and private sector must work together to yield the best kind of agriculture commodity, not just for palm oils, but for the rest of the priority goods and other agriculture and fisheries products that are proudly made in Mindanao.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao ; Vice Chair of the Mindanao Commission Of Women and National Corn Board; Chair of the Mindanao TVET ; Mindanao Rep , Export Development Council ; Chair , Joji Ilagan Foundation ; Former Chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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The Conference

November 8, Day 1: The Developers' Series
Intended Output: Basic Career Roadmap for Individuals

- Getting Ready to Get Certified, Mapping Your Skills
- Certifications & Career – Is There a Connection?
- Vendor - Specific Certifications
- Vendor - Neutral Certifications
- Open Source Certifications
- Functional Area Certifications - An Overview

November 9, Day 2: The Leaders' Forum
Intended Output: Basic Quality Framework for the Organization

- Software Quality 101....Making Sense of it All
- Project Management and Software Quality - The Hidden Connection
- An Introduction to Capability Maturity Model Integrated (CMMI)
  - CMMI For Outsourcing Companies
  - CMMI For Product Developers
  - Focusing on your Core Asset- People: Understanding P-CMM
- Sustaining Success - Quality in Software Services Support
  - An Overview of ITIL
  - An Overview of BS 15000
- We Are a Small Software House, Where Do We Begin?
  - Taking Your First Steps in Software Quality
  - The Hybrid Approach
- Plus, Bonus Tracks on:
  - Quality Standard (eSCM) for BPOs
  - Information Security- Why is it so Important?
- Synthesis

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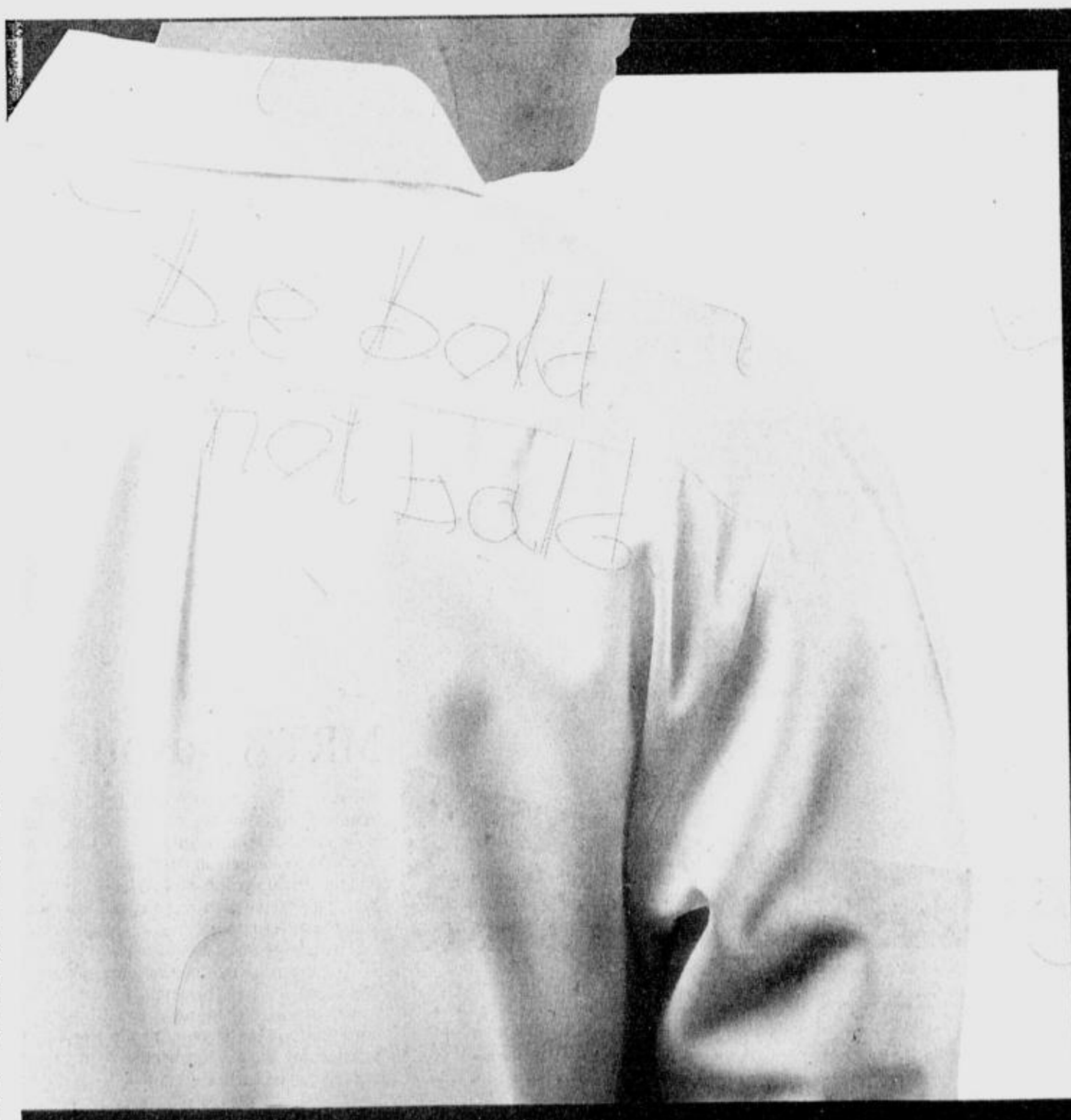

You can turn your back on MPHL or Male Pattern Hair Loss. It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp.[1] MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over certain areas of your scalp.[2] Chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[2], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL. Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown.[1]

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

Now MPHL will not be a burden on your shoulders anymore. You just have to be bold, so you don't have to be bald.

you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

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You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com

ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

ProHAIR

Reference : 1. Libecco J. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004; 5(4): 933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient.
02-2006-PPC-05-PH-4003-AD

PlantersBank expands microfinance venture

By Doris C. Dumlao

BULLISH ON PROSPECTS FOR MICROFINANCE lending in the Philippines, Planters Development Bank plans to raise the capital of Davao-based Micro Enterprise Bank (MEB) to as much as P500 million and expand its operations nationwide.

PlantersBank chair and CEO Jesus Tambunting said during the recent Good News Kapihan that MEB, a development finance institution supporting the working and entrepreneurial poor where the bank owns a majority stake, had great potential and should be expanded "in a big way."

"We like to increase the capital. Our idea is to expand it nationwide and increase the capital to much more than P60 million," Tambunting said.

PlantersBank took over control of MEB from a German partner last year. It bought out the Germans' shares after the former partners decided to refocus their investments and concentrate in South America and Eastern Europe.

PlantersBank now has majority of MEB, while minority partners are the International Finance Corp. and Dutch government-controlled Netherlands Development Finance Co. (FMO).

"We might get another foreign bank to join us," Tambunting said.

"Microfinance has been proven to be successful all over the world. The collection ratio is about 94-95 percent and if you're down to 90 percent, you're doing badly," he said.

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	170,000	-
Canlubang	500,000	450,000
Canyon Woods	140,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	90,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Forest Hills "A"	110,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	160,000
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,200,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	380,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	740,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Metroclub "A"	120,000	80,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	400,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	230,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	580,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	Please Call	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,000,000

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Class C (Corp)	726,000

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CLUB	SHARES AVAILABLE SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000/1,250,000*	1,000,000/1,100,000*
Alta Vista Corp.	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	-
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	170,000	140,000
Canlubang Golf	-	450,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	90,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	190,000/Pls. Call**	150,000/250,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evergreen	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	110,000/200,000*	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	-
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	2,150,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	380,000	650,000*
Makati Sports Club	-	150,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*	150,000/250,000*
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	-
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/250,000**	120,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Spa & Lodge	550,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,200,000/1,500,000*	1,100,000
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Subic Yacht Club	Pls. Call	-
The Palms Country Club	500,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,300,000	-

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 16, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	1,123,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	50.5	51	2,629,400
China Banking Corp.	840	840	830	830	370
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	270,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	48.5	49	255,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26.5	27	26.5	27	911,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	1,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.75	14	14	26,700
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	8,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	50,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2850	2850	2850	2850	420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	90,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2075	2100	2075	2095	3,530
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	101,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	740	765	740	760	119,150
Ipeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	6,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	2,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	19,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	2,397,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1555	1555	1535	1535	395,760
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	3,300,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	26,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	19.75	20	3,688,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	248,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.15	6,676,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.26	559,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	153,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.8	2,265,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.54	1,600,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	170,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	142,500
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	130,000
San Miguel Corp. B	95	97.5	95	95.5	380,100
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	51,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	560,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	295	300	295	300	98,270
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	350,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	5	5,930,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	7,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	2,238,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Alcom Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	48,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.69	80,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,352,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	120,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,335,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	40,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.4	5.6	397,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	43.5	44	285,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	274,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	3,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1,262,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	540,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.24	190,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	264,000
SM Investments Corp.	212	212	208	209	487,920
South China Resources Inc.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.77	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	6,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	1,880,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	680,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	22,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	250,000,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	1,640,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.54	1,841,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	713,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	23,664,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	50,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	9,180,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,900,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.8	4.95	4.8	4.9	5,871,000
SM Development Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	9,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	9,934,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.95	1,040,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.94	0.96	0.94	0.96	190,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	31,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	841,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	12,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	19,370,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.29	3,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	134,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	62,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.84	2,830,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.02	1.08	1.02	1.06	3,960,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	579,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	200,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	49,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.43	100,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	1,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	1,500,000

CURRENCIES

September 18, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.818063	1.000000	56.0140
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.009035	0.5061
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477421	1.806000	101.1613
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105439	0.128889	7.2196
Switzerland	Franc	0.645465	0.789017	44.1960
Canada	Dollar	0.690232	0.843739	47.2612
Singapore	Dollar	0.487174	0.595522	33.3576
Australia	Dollar	0.627349	0.766871	42.9555
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.170043	2.652661	148.5862
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218132	0.266645	14.9359
Brunei	Dollar	0.485728	0.593754	33.2585
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019977	0.024420	1.3679
UAE	Dirham	0.222851	0.272413	15.2589
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222400	68.4715
Argentina	Peso	0.280639	0.343053	19.2158
Brazil	Real	0.355525	0.434594	24.3433
Denmark	Kroner	0.134157	0.163994	9.1860
India	Rupee	0.018669	0.022821	1.2783
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217050	0.265322	14.8617
Mexico	New Peso	0.075649	0.092473	5.1798
New Zealand	Dollar	0.577076	0.705418	39.5133
South Africa	Rand	0.128203	0.156715	8.7782
Korea	Won	0.000798	0.000975	0.0546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024964	0.030516	1.7093

MRT 3 buyout . . .

From page B1

But it is only now, according to Mamondiong, that the plan was being discussed thoroughly.

MRTC spokesperson Paul Daza said the private group would welcome a prepayment proposal from the government.

"There were talks about a similar buyout proposal before but they didn't prosper. Our company is open to such a proposal. A win-win situation would have to be the basis of any buyout agreement," Daza said in an earlier interview.

Under the build-lease-transfer arrangement between the government and the MRTC consortium that started in July 2000, the government must pay the private sector group a total of $2.4 billion over a 25-year period.

The amount covers the equity plus the maintenance fees.

MRT 3 was built with a $655-million funding. Of this, $465 million were loans that are being repaid by the government and $190 million represented the equity of MRTC.

The contract provided a 15-percent return on the consortium's equity. The monthly rental fee for the two components started only at $800,000 a month in 2000. Right now, it is at $3.3 million monthly because it increases periodically based on the contract, according to MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso.

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Bangko Sentral eases write-off policy on NPLs

But Dosri loans excluded

By Doris C. Dumlao

TO PROD BANKS TO CLEAN UP their books, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas relaxed its write-off rules on bad loans, excluding that on credit accommodations to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (Dosri).

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board, in its weekly meeting Thursday, allowed boards of directors of banks to write off against allowance for probable losses all non-Dosri loans deemed to have become worthless.

The Monetary Board agreed to waive the requirement for banks to give a 25-day prior notice before writing off bad loans, making it easier for them to recognize losses.

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision Nestor Espenilla Jr. admitted that the previous procedure required by the BSP was "cumbersome."

Putting up a 100-percent provision for bad loans has the same economic effect as writing off or recognizing the loans as losses. Under the country's tax laws, however, funds set aside for loss provisioning could be offset from tax liabilities only when the accounts were written off.

A less stringent loan write-off policy, Espenilla said, would make it easier for banks to get rid of non-performing assets.

Instead of the pre-clearance previously required, banks are now required to file within 30 days after every write-off a board resolution approving the act, as well as a sworn statement signed by the president or officer of equivalent rank that the write-off did not include transactions with Dosri.

"We're sensitive on Dosri (lending) because that's open to abuse. You lend yourself money from the bank fund and absolve yourself, so it's like stealing from the bank," Espenilla explained.

The BSP had tightened its rules on Dosri lending because it had been abused in the past, resulting in the collapse of certain banks.

The General Banking Act limits a bank's Dosri exposure to a maximum of 15 percent of its total loan portfolio or 100 percent of its net worth, whichever is lower, provided that the Dosri lending does not exceed 30 percent of total loans and other credit accommodations and guarantees.

4 groups vie for ₱1.6-B geothermal project

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO.-Energy Development Corp. has declared four foreign firms eligible to undertake the P1.6-billion 20-megawatt (MW) Nasulo geothermal project in Negros Oriental.

These were Alstom Power New Zealand Ltd., the Kanematsu and Hyundai consortium, Marubeni Corp., and Ormat International Inc. The four are expected to conduct project site inspections before submitting their technical bids.

The project, formerly known as the Palinpinon 2 optimization project, involves the installation and commissioning of a 20-MW geothermal power plant, as well as the construction of a switching station to connect to the National Power Corp.'s 138-kilovolt transmission line in Nasuji.

Upon commissioning in 2007, the Nasulo project is expected to boost the Visayas grid's total capacity and help meet rising demand.

According to the Department of Energy's updated Philippine Energy Plan for the 2005-2014 period, the Mindanao grid needs some P77.6 billion in new capital to prevent a power crisis, particularly during the summer months, due to its heavy dependence on hydropower.

The grid last year had a peak demand of 1,278 MW, hovering dangerously close to its dependable capacity of 1,402 MW and installed capacity of 1,665 MW.

By this year, peak demand in the grid is seen going up to 1,371 MW. This will grow even further to 1,615 MW by 2008 and to 2,256 MW by 2014, representing an average annual growth rate of 5.9 percent.

Requiem

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WHENEVER I FEEL BAD OVER all the graft and corruption I hear going on in the government today, I bring to mind the stirring saga of my late uncle and aunt who were in the civil service all their adult lives. Then, I feel good again.

Tata Peping studied medicine at the University of Santo Tomas before World War II. His widowed mother supported him by selling dried fish in the public market when Naga was a small backwater town in Camarines Sur.

The monthly allowance his mother could afford to send was so meager that making both ends meet in the big city of Manila was a constant struggle for Tata Peping. He could not afford to buy textbooks, so he spent all his spare time studying in the library. There was one textbook he wanted to have. He copied the text and illustrations by hand. If the Xerox copying machine had already been invented, he could not have afforded the printing charges anyway. By the end of the semester, he had copied the entire book. This handwritten textbook is one of the treasures he left behind.

Because he had to do his own laundry, he made sure his white uniform would not get dirty so easily. Before taking his place in the classroom, he would wipe his seat clean and cover it with Manila paper.

He went to the public faucet before dawn to do his washing alongside the poor washerwomen. Then, the washerwomen offered to wash his clothes for free. All they asked was, "When you are already a doctor, please do not forget us."

Tata Peping never did. He worked all his life as a surgeon at North General because it was the hospital of the poor washerwomen who helped him. He never passed the chance of treating charity cases. He was the surgeon of the poor.

With Spanish blood in him, he was good-looking but soft-spoken. He always had a trace of a smile on his face. He was an all-around nice guy. He did not have an enemy in the world. Everybody at North General came to call him *Tatang*.

Tata Peping's wife, Nana Zeny, who came from a middle-income family in Albay, was two years behind him in medical school. After passing the board exams, she joined the Department of Health. She rose to become director of regulation and licensing, where there were ample opportunities for making dirty money on the side. She never touched the stuff.

The couple bought two adjoining units in one of the government low-cost housing projects in Quezon City. The furnishings were modest. This is where they raised their son and two daughters who all went to medical school, and where they spent the rest of their lives together.

Tata Peping bought a second-hand car. It was so old it was no longer insurable, except against compulsory third party liability. Always careful, he drove the car at way below maximum allowable speed. But I guess he was also afraid that if he drove fast, the car would break up.

Tata Peping passed away peacefully at retirement five years ago. Nana Zeny followed him recently. They are buried side by side in a memorial park in Novaliches. No aboveground monument marks their resting place.

I am absolutely certain St. Peter threw the pearly gates wide open and greeted them, "Well done! Enter into your Father's Kingdom!"

I am also absolutely sure that there are thousands of Tata Pepings and Nana Zenys in the government today, working and slaving an honest living by serving the people, in spite of the temptations for graft and corruption around them. This is why I believe that this country of ours, in the end, will be okay.

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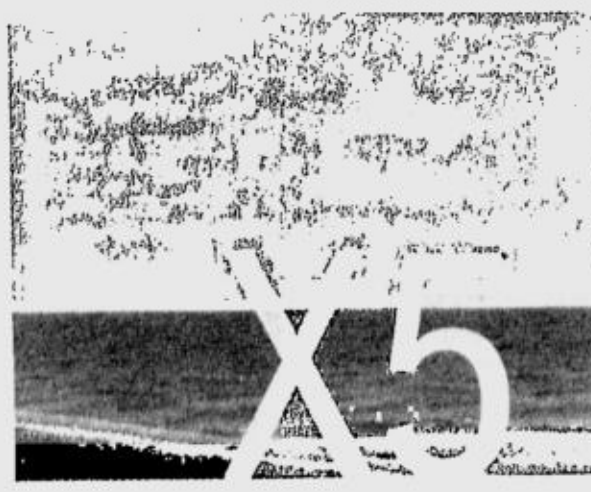

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INFORMATION age is out, Participation Age is in

Information age is over, says Sun CEO McNealy

By Leo Magno

SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC. chairman and CEO Scott McNealy says the Information Age is over, and that people online today should already be living in "the age of participation." The outspoken CEO also believes his company, which made $11.2 billion in revenues last year, would make more money by giving away its software technology for free.

McNealy defines the Participation Age as the time when sharing has become important to the economic and social returns of the industry as a whole. Today, he says, people are not just online; they are participating in communities. There are bloggers, podcasters, people who send text and instant messages, people who study or shop online and people who use distance applications like telemedicine. These online communities are creating an ecosystem that bridges the digital divide and unleashes untapped market potentials.

Yet this is not an entirely altruistic endeavor for Sun. How can you make money by giving away technology for which you've spent billions of dollars and years of development? McNealy says Sun will benefit from this by building the infrastructure that facilitates the Participation Age.

"Participation drives economies and social progress," McNealy tells reporters during an Asian conference here. "Sharing creates communities and communities create markets."

Sun's strategy is to give away its software technologies for free. It started 10 years ago with Java, a software platform where developers can write an application once and it would run on any Java-enabled device. Ten years later, there are now 4.5 million Java developers, 2.5 billion Java devices, 700 million Java-powered personal computers, 708 million Java-powered mobile phones, and more than 1 billion Java cards have been deployed.

McNealy estimates that the total Java economy is worth more than $100 billion in annual sales. This, he says, is driving an additional $110 billion in related Java spending.

Sun also offered as freeware its StarOffice and OpenOffice software, with 50 million cumulative downloads so far.

And then, in a surprise move, Sun gave away the source code of its crown jewels—the Solaris operating system—to the community for open sourcing. Since the start of this year, Sun has registered 2.5 million downloads for Open Solaris.

"So by sharing and increasing participation, you open up opportunities from these growing markets," he says. "After using Java, you might want to get our Java Enterprise System Stack, and then our web services stack or even Solaris. As these people create content using our software, they share in the Participation Age."

This is how Sun will monetize its own definition of sharing and collaboration. As people get Java Enterprise System or the commercial, more secure version of Solaris, the support contracts will come in, and so will hardware sales.

"These communities are going to need support for their OS (operating system), and then they'll need hardware and support for Solaris," he says. "Then they'll need storage and use our web services stack, then they might want to use our (N1) utility or grid services."

McNealy cites as an example the Java Enterprise Systems stack service contract, where Sun could charge $150 a year per employee in companies which use it.

"This is recurring revenue with good gross

INFORMATION/B11

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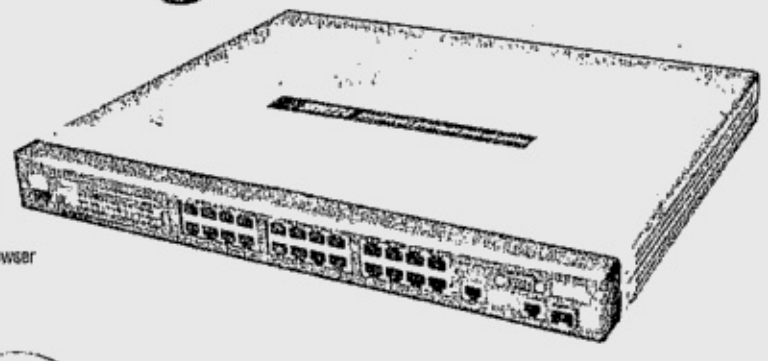

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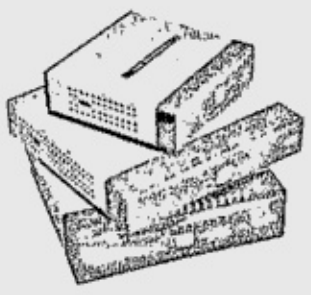

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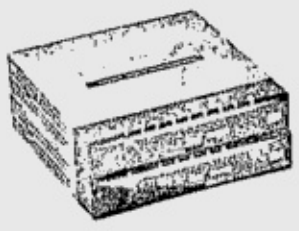

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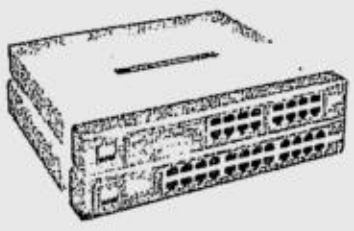

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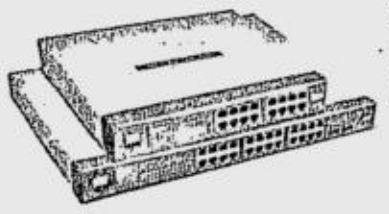

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DESPITE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS LURE

New Nokia president to push brand focus

By Leo Magno

NOKIA WILL NURTURE ITS BRAND EQUITY and continue to focus on mobile phone technologies despite flirting with the consumer electronics market, according to its incoming president.

Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo, 52, has been appointed president and chief operating officer of the world's biggest mobile phone manufacturer effective October 1. He will become president and CEO starting June 1, 2006, replacing retiree Jorma Ollila, 54, who will then become non-executive chairman.

Nokia, which accounts for 3.5 percent of Finland's annual GDP, a statistic unmatched by any company anywhere in the world, has been invading the consumer electronics market with the convergence of different functionalities into cellular phones. The company now manufactures mobile phones integrated with digital recorders, digital cameras, video cameras and MP3 players and PDA (personal digital assistant) functions, products which traditionally were offered as separate devices. Nokia executives have even been referring to the company as one of the biggest consumer electronics firms in the world.

However, Kallasvuo said Nokia will leverage on the brand which the company has built, and will focus on nurturing that brand. Interbrand's 2005 study of the "100 Best Global Brands" indicate that Nokia is the sixth most recognized brand in the world, next to Coca-Cola, Microsoft, IBM, GE and Intel. Rounding up the top 10 are Disney, McDonald's, Toyota and Marlboro. Of the top 10 brands, Nokia is the only European brand and the only mobile phone manufacturer in the list. The next European brand is Mercedes-Benz at No. 11, while the next mobile phone and consumer electronics company is Samsung at No. 20.

KALLASVUO: Incoming Nokia president to focus on brand equity

But the lure of the consumer electronics world comes second to the brand recognition, according to Kallasvuo.

"It will follow the business rather than the other way around," Kallasvuo said in an interview. "Nokia is the No. 6 brand worldwide, and that is something that needs to be nurtured and used in a pragmatic way. We are a mobile phone company exploring new technologies, and the brand will continue to support that."

Yet Nokia does not mince words when signaling the death knell for other products. For example, Anssi Vanjoki, executive vice president for multimedia of Nokia, said that digital voice recorders, MP3 players and digital cameras will become obsolete because of convergence.

"In our opinion, digital cameras without communications are dead," Vanjoki said. "Why would I want a camera that can't communicate and instantaneously allow you to share pic-

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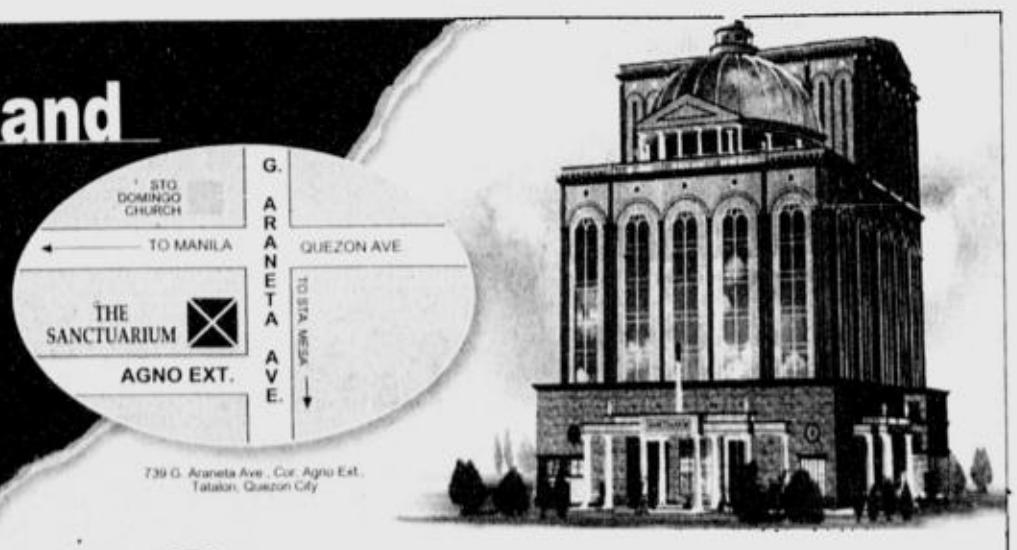

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Arroyo did not err on 'Bintana': Microsoft Philippines

By Erwin Lemuel Oliva

FINALLY PUTTING AN END TO the controversy over "Bintana," a literal Filipino translation of "Windows," Microsoft Philippines said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was not misinformed about the existence of "Bintana."

"On behalf of Microsoft, we would like to clarify that the President was correct. Bintana is actually an internal term for our local language initiatives, all of which are currently under development in Redmond. Through these initiatives, we aim to create a Filipino interface for our Windows operating system," said Mae Rivera, Microsoft Philippines marketing communications manager in a brief statement.

Rivera did not discuss whether this local version of the Windows operating system will be priced differently from the standard English version.

During Microsoft's 10th anniversary in the Philippines, the software company noted that Arroyo had lauded them for coming out with "Bintana." Rivera, however, stressed that Bintana is not a product name and regretted any miscommunication it may have caused to local media.

"It was a great honor for us to have the President recognize our local language initiatives for Windows last month. Her support further galvanizes our efforts to get a local language product to market as soon as we can," Rivera added.

In an online forum of Microsoft Philippines, Jojo Ayson, Microsoft Philippines senior product manager for platform security, said the local subsidiary was not coming out with Bintana, a Filipino-version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, priced differently from the English version of the software.

Bintana *(noun)*: WINDOW

"Speculation is always the stuff of legends. Let me put this issue to rest...THERE IS NO SUCH PRODUCT AS 'WINDOWS BINTANA.' Microsoft is committed to providing the tools and technologies required to develop local IT economies and enable language groups to participate in this growth," he wrote in an online post.

"One of these is our global initiative called the Local Language Program that fosters the development and proliferation of regional language groups, enabling them to preserve and promote their language and culture while benefiting from continuing IT advancements. Right now, we are working very closely with our colleagues in Redmond to bring this program to the Philippines," Ayson added in the online post made on August 30.

At the 10th anniversary celebration of Microsoft Philippines, the local media and executives from Microsoft Philippines were surprised after Arroyo herself thanked the software company for coming up with Bintana.

Rivera at that time clarified that Arroyo might have misconstrued another initiative Microsoft had with Redmond during the event.

Several reports also have come out citing Microsoft Philippine Managing Director Antonio Javier as the person who had briefed Arroyo about Bintana. But in a separate interview, Javier denied he briefed Arroyo about Bintana.

"There is no [Bintana] product but there is a local language initiative that we're working on," Javier said in a telephone interview. He said that Microsoft had briefed Arroyo about the local language program, which was cited by Ayson in his online post in a local forum.

But Microsoft did not in any way tell her about a lower-cost Filipino version of Windows, which Arroyo eventually cited in her speech at the anniversary celebration.

"We have always told everybody that we cannot bring down price of Windows because everyone will [come] here and purchase Windows," Javier continued, referring to possible parallel importation of lower-cost Windows sold in the country.

He stressed that he had briefed Arroyo on the current initiatives of the software company to help the economy, the poor, abandoned children, and overseas Filipino workers. He also mentioned the Filipino computer vocabulary Microsoft is working on with local academicians.

New Nokia president . . .

From page B10

tures?"

"I am confident that convergent products will change business models. Why would I not want to have all of my devices with me, especially MP3 players where you can download songs off the air?" Vanjoki added.

The market for music-enabled phones is expected to grow from 45 million units in 2004 to 458 million units in 2009, according to data from Strategy Analytics. Nokia claims to have shipped 10 million phones with MP3 players in 2004 and expects to ship 40 million more such units in 2005. Jupiter Research estimates that 18.2 million MP3 players were shipped in 2004.

Meanwhile, Nokia claims to have sold more than 200 million camera phones in 2004. In comparison, Tokyo's Camera and Imaging Products Association estimates that 59.77 million digital cameras were shipped in 2004.

Nokia's convergent products have been encroaching into the consumer electronics space for the past few years, something Kallasvuo acknowledges.

"There is a lot of excitement in the mobility space and we have been coming out with consumer products," he said. "As an industry leader we happily accept the responsibility. But we as a company have to retain brand and marketing focus and we have to communicate the brand to consumer electronics customers."

As a result, even Nokia's roster of competitors is changing. Apart from traditional nemesis Motorola of the United States, Nokia now has to contend with consumer electronics giants from Asia such as Sony of Japan with its Sony Ericsson mobile phone and Samsung of Korea.

"Our traditional competitors continue to be the same people, but the combined market share of the top two mobile telephone companies has exceeded 50 percent," Kallasvuo said. "That means there is consolidation and convergence. This will definitely have an impact because elements from different industries are coming in. It is becoming a more complex situation."

But from a marketing perspective, at least one Nokia executive believes the company will eventually go the way of consumer electronics.

Heikki Norta, senior vice president for marketing of Nokia mobile phones, told Infotech that this was a natural progression.

"Yes, I think in due course we will evolve from the current core of simple mobile telephone products into consumer electronics," he said.

Going toward consumer electronics, Norta added that Nokia is not just a technology company but is also driven by the market.

"The unique electronic things consumers need are increasingly becoming modular," he said. "You don't have to sacrifice technology when you are market-driven because of modularization, and sometimes that modularization will take you to other consumer electronics products."

Information . . .

From page B10

margins," he says. "So if we get 10 percent of the global workforce using Java at $150 per year, well, you can just do the math."

McNealy calls this his "iPod moment."

"This is a potential iPod moment for Sun," he says. "Where was Apple going before the iPod? Now Apple is an iPod company. Sun's strategy is to share, and we will get benefits when people share and participate."

The company is so serious about sharing that it has even made changes to its decades-old logo and color, plus an entire slew of branding campaigns anchored on the word "share."

However, while betting on the Participation Age by giving away software for free may sound like a good model for Sun which also has hardware to sell, the same may not be a good idea for other companies like Sun's bitter rival, Microsoft Corp.

Asked if he would collaborate and share his software if he were the chief software architect of Microsoft, McNealy says:

"No because it wouldn't work for them (Microsoft). Their current model works for them; they made their software closed and now they're making money out of that. If you were in their position, you wouldn't share. You would monopolize and dominate."

McNealy adds that Sun has been open sourcing its software technologies since the 1980s while other companies were making their software proprietary.

"I would argue that it's all over but the shouting," he says. "There are now only two operating systems fighting it out in the planet—Windows and Solaris. But our strategy is to get communities going by sharing technology and not by locking them in like the other guy does."

Neda approves Transco Vis-Min deals worth ₱3B

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND Development Authority has approved around P3 billion worth of National Transmission Corp. (Transco) projects in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in a statement that Neda approved the 138-kilovolt (kV) Wright-Calbayog, Sangali-Pitogo and General Santos-Tacurong transmission projects.

The Wright-Calbayog project involves the replacement of wood pole-supported 69-kV transmission lines in the area with steel-pole supported 138-kV lines.

Ortiz noted that the entire Northern Samar still had wood pole-supported lines prone to drops in voltage and intermittent shutdowns.

With the Wright-Calbayog project, not only would these lines be replaced with more reliable ones, but the growing electricity demand of Calbayog City and adjacent Northern Samar towns would also be addressed.

The Sangali-Pitogo project entails the replacement of the existing transmission line network in the area with steel pole-supported 138-kV double circuit lines with a capacity of 300 megawatts (MW) from the existing 80 MW.

The project is expected to address Zamboanga City's growing power demand, as well as provide for future interconnection to Basilan.

Like the first two projects, the General Santos-Tacurong project also involves replacement of 80 kilometers of wood pole-supported single-circuit 138-kV lines with steel pole-supported double-circuit 138-kV lines.

With the approvals, he said the state firm could now prepare to bid out the P865.5-million Wright-Calbayog and P1.1-billion General Santos-Tacurong projects.

All three projects are part of Transco's five-year $850-million capital expenditure budget from 2006 to 2010, which the Department of Energy has approved and endorsed to the Department of Finance.

Upon completion, the lines will be better able to handle bulk power. The growing electricity demand from the area's fishing, packing, canning and seafood processing industries will also be better addressed.

CAP: From pre-need's . . .

From page B1

ception in the early 1980s. But it has since fallen on hard times.

Once a symbol of financial security, CAP's flagship product—the "open-ended" educational plan, which guaranteed matriculation benefits regardless of future tuition hikes—has fallen into disrepute. Schools no longer accept company-issued checks as tuition payments. The firm is insolvent, and its top officials have recently been charged by regulators before the courts.

Critics of the pre-need industry—and an increasing number of dissatisfied clients—now believe that early success has transformed successful financial schemes into financial scams.

(Very) early warning

One such critic is banker and financial reform advocate Evangeline Escobillo.

As an officer of the Actuarial Society of the Philippines (ASP), she said that CAP's troubles, along with that of the pre-need industry, were predicted as early as the mid-1990s.

"As actuaries, we could tell even back then that something was very wrong," she said in an interview last week. "We had a hunch."

Having dealt with the mathematical aspects of the insurance industry in the past, Escobillo and some ASP members volunteered to review the finances and accounting practices of the pre-need industry.

A close cousin of the insurance industry, the pre-need industry was then "red hot." The economy was beginning to take off in the 1990s, disposable income was rising, and clients were buying educational plans in droves. More importantly, the real estate industry was booming, and high returns on investment were becoming the norm.

Even during the boom times, Escobillo said a cursory examination of industry practices already revealed shocking weaknesses.

"These companies' business models were counting on annual returns of 18 percent," she said incredulously. "That was very optimistic. It was not sustainable."

More importantly, her group discovered that the entire pre-need industry was using aggressive accounting practices which understated liabilities and tended to present a rosier financial picture than warranted.

Many owners and top officials of pre-need firms were content to mimic CAP's practices, not realizing that they were fooling themselves and their clients, Escobillo explained.

"Everyone else adopted it," she said. "No one bothered to question the system."

Ticking time bombs

The financial troubles that have befallen at least three major pre-need firms since last year merely highlighted in very harsh terms that the old business model of "open-ended" plans was a disaster waiting to happen.

The Federation of Philippine Pre-Need Plan Companies (FPPC), the umbrella association of the country's more than 40 pre-need companies, now admits that their old business model was bound to fail.

An oversight committee formed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) last year to track the financial health of embattled CAP described the firm's products as ticking time bombs.

These open-ended plans had a hidden flaw: it committed the firm to a financial obligation that had no ceiling (a deregulated tuition environment) amid increasingly limited returns on investments.

How did this scheme evolve?

In 1980, lawyer and pre-need executive Enrique Sobrepeña Jr. formed CAP and introduced the education plan after realizing that savings of the average family were often insufficient to send children to school.

His business model capitalized on the dream of every Filipino family to send their children to college.

Packaged as an educational plan, CAP pooled plan holders' premium payments and, with the aid of trustee banks, invested them in high-yield assets and securities. The success of the scheme was contingent on CAP's investments appreciating faster than the cost of college education.

It worked—but only for a while.

By the mid-1990s, the industry's business model was coming under intense pressure as the government deregulated the tuition environment for colleges and universities. The outbreak of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis signaled a sea change for CAP and the rest of the industry.

According to Escobillo, many pre-need companies like CAP tried to cover their ballooning liabilities and benefit payouts by simply selling more educational plans.

"The proceeds from the new sales were used to service maturing obligations," she said. "This is how pyramiding scams operate."

As with fly-by-night pyramid scams, the financial house of cards was bound to collapse, leaving many clients holding the bag.

Dashed hopes

Pietro Azurin, an electrical engineer whose son is a sophomore at a prestigious university in Metro Manila, bought his CAP education plan in the 1980s for roughly P14,000.

Azurin said he latched on to a CAP agent's sales pitch: that the firm will take care of sending his child to a school of his choice. He felt that he was buying more than a contract. He was trying to ensure a good future for his son through education, especially when old age ends his earning capacity.

"*Ngayon, sa araw na inaasahan mo, wala na. Kailangan mag-umpisa ulit* (Now it's no longer there in your time of need. We need to start over)," Azurin said, admitting that ordinary plan holders like himself did not see the symptoms of the industry's near collapse coming.

Azurin has now borrowed money from loan sharks and friends to pay for his son's enrollment and mid-term exams, as schools clamp down on students who fall behind on tuition payments.

He also pins his hopes on a promissory note from CAP which has pledged to reimburse him and other plan holders by next month for the advances they made for their children's education.

"*Sinabi nila sa amin na huwag kami bibitaw, na pahabain ang pasensya. Pero malapit na maubos ang pisi namin* (They told us not to let go, to be patient. But we're almost at the end of our rope)," Azurin said.

He complains about being "dribbled" between CAP and the SEC after airing his complaint to both parties. For now, all he can do is wait, after the SEC made him and other plan holders sign a letter to the CAP president seeking an explanation for the firm's woes.

Like millions of other clients of CAP and other pre-need firms, Azurin wants to know what went wrong. He wants to know if regulators were negligent. He wants to know what he can do to recover his hard-earned money and to make the company with sweet-talking salesmen honor its obligations. *(To be continued)*

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SMC needs A$100M to fund Berri takeover

SAN MIGUEL CORP. (SMC) SAID IT WOULD need A$100 million to A$150 million to complete its takeover of Australian juice maker Berri Ltd., sources told INQUIRER.

The takeover of Berri would allow the full integration of the Australian juice brand into SMC's newly acquired dairy company National Foods Ltd.

SMC earlier acquired 51 percent of Berri for $130 million earlier. It has to acquire the remaining 51 percent in January next year to gain full control of the company.

To fund the acquisition and the other possible investments, SMC may contract loans from Australia through National Foods as the borrower.

SMC had completed negotiations for a US$500 million loan to cover a US$1.1-billion bridge financing used to buy 100 percent of National Foods.

Sources also told INQUIRER that aside from Berri and National Foods, the food and beverage conglomerate remained interested in Sydney brewer Lion Nathan.

Lion Nathan, however, said it was not aware of any offer from SMC.

"It (Lion Nathan) has not been approached and it has not engaged in any discussions consistent with this speculation," Duncan Makeig, company secretary and general counsel of Lion Nathan had said.

The combined distribution channels of Berri and National Foods should provide savings to the company, estimated at US$30 million, Spencer White, Merrill Lynch Hong Kong strategist had said.

SMC's aggressive expansion into foreign markets comes at a price.

Standard & Poor's credit analyst Nancy Koh had observed that SMC's debt was expected to rise substantially to P146 billion (US$2.6 billion) by the end of 2005, from P61 billion at year-end 2004.

PLDT to exceed debt payment goal

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. is expected to exceed its debt reduction target for this year.

The company aimed to cut its debts by $600 million this year. However, having been able to pay two-thirds of the amount even before the end of the third quarter, the company expects debt payments this year to exceed $600 million.

"We were already two-thirds of the way as of end-August with respect to a $600 million debt-reduction target for the year. There is a chance we could go over the target," said PLDT senior vice president and treasurer Annabelle Chua in an interview.

PLDT has so far paid $412 million in debts.

Last Aug.1, PLDT paid $110 million of its maturing bonds. About $80 million more in obligations are falling due this quarter and $68 million in the last quarter.

Outside of debt payments of $312 million during the first half, the telecom giant also reduced its put option liability by $45 million when it allowed the conversion of some preferred shares into more than a million common shares.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said the company would continue to fast-track its debt payment so it would realize more savings on interest.

In the first half, the company shelled out P4.7 billion for interest payment on fixed-line loans. This level is 15 percent lower than the P5.6 billion in interest payment in the same period last year.

Mining prospects getting brighter

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources sees good prospects ahead for the Philippine mining industry.

Environment Undersecretary for mining and legal affairs Deinrado Simon D. Dimalibot expressed confidence that the industry's target of generating US$6 billion for 23 priority mining projects by 2010 would be met.

"Last year, we generated investments of $500 million from four mines, which are only in the exploration or pre-feasibility stages," he said. "We expect more investments on the fourth and fifth year, when most of the mines are already in operation."

The Philippines has become a prime option for mining investments because of its proximity to big Asian markets such as China, Japan, South Korea and India. It would be very expensive for these countries to source their mineral requirements from South America, where some of the world's biggest mines are located, because of the transportation cost, the official said.

According to Dimalibot, the governments of India, China, Japan, Australia and Canada all want to sign agreements with the Philippines to undertake a mineral assessment of the entire country. He said that out of a total of nine million hectares of potential mining areas, only 260,000 hectares—or 2.9 percent—have mining claims to date.

"Australia and Canada placed their bets on the Philippines a long time ago," he said. "They not only have technical expertise—they are also adept at raising funds. On the other hand, China is a new but very aggressive player. After all, it is the world's biggest market."

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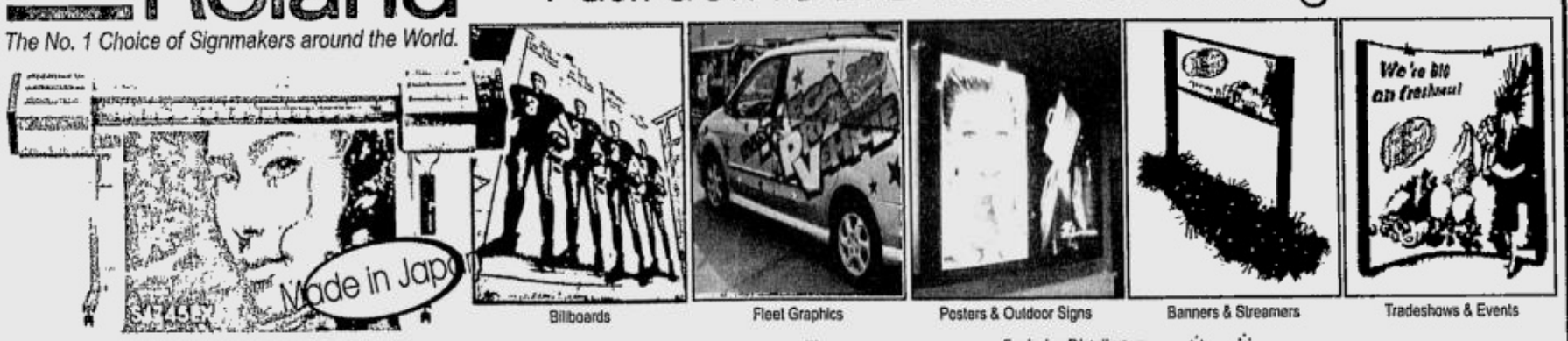

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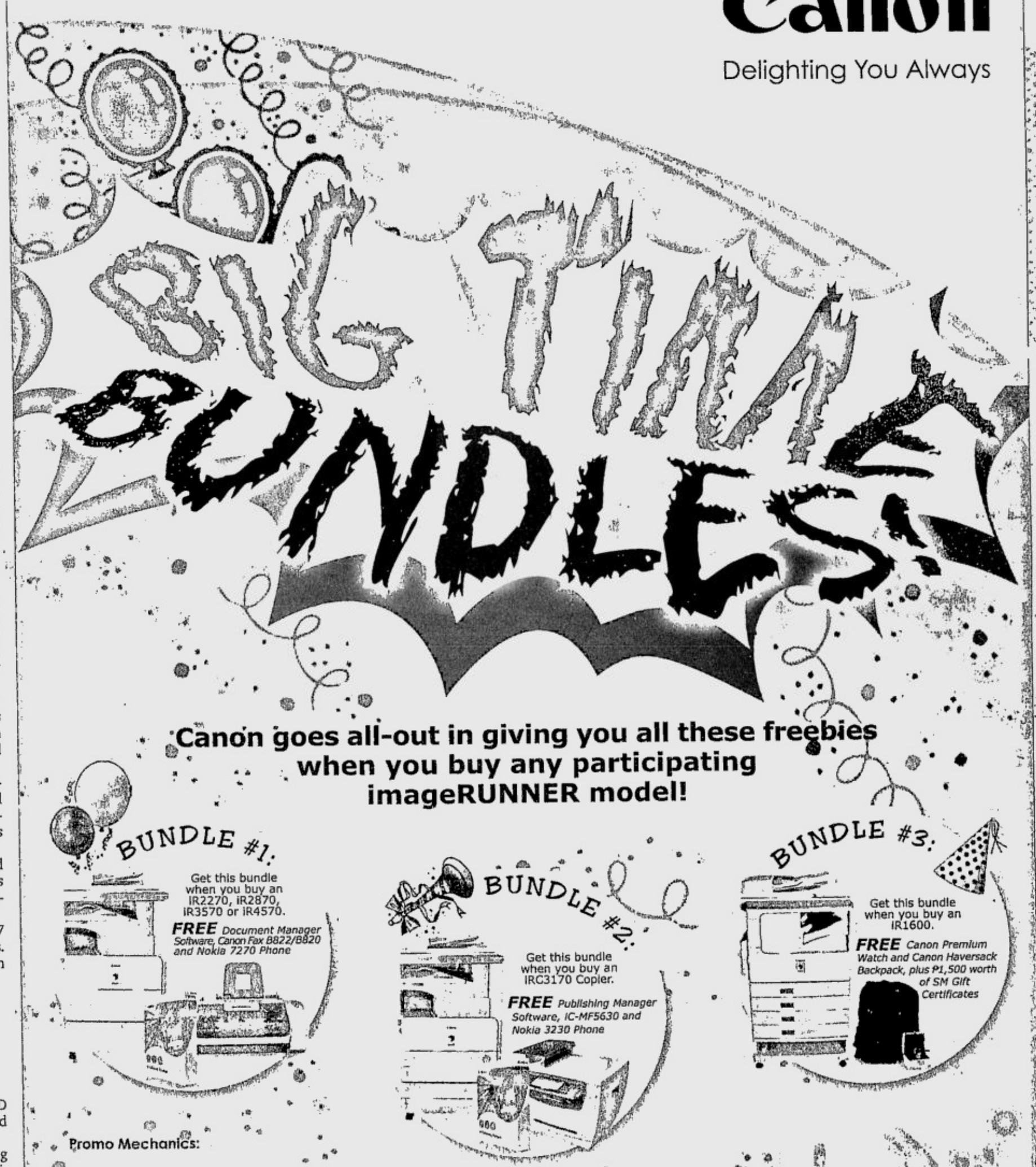

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Napocor rates seen to rise by 19¢/kWh

By Abigail L. Ho

SELLING RATES OF THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. will likely increase by an average of 18.99 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) nationwide once the Energy Regulatory Commission approves its fuel cost and foreign exchange cost recovery applications.

According to the latest joint filings of Napocor and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., the state firm is seeking adjustments of 20.49 centavos per kWh in Luzon, 25.28 centavos per kWh in the Visayas and 11.19 centavos per kWh.

These rate adjustments will cover the recovery of costs under Napocor's generation rate adjustment mechanism (Gram) and incremental currency exchange rate adjustment (Icera).

The quarterly Gram allows Napocor to recover cost fluctuations related to its purchase of power from independent power producers.

The Icera, on the other hand, is a quarterly rate adjustment mechanism that allows Napocor to reflect foreign exchange fluctuations in the rates it charges its customers.

Both filings, the fifth for the Gram and the fourth for the Icera, cover incremental costs incurred from October last year to March this year.

The fifth Gram filing likewise includes the amounts to be recovered from the Luzon and Mindanao grids, as well as the amount to be refunded to the Visayas grid.

The recoveries and refund stemmed from the ERC's final decision on the Napocor-Psalm joint application for time of use (TOU) rates.

In a statement over the weekend, Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said that since November last year, Napocor customers, including distribution utilities and large electricity users, had been paying between P1.87 and P6.06 per kWh, depending on the time of day they use electricity.

These were still the cheapest electricity rates among all power producers nationwide, he said.

Del Callar also said that the state firm had no assurance that it would get in full the Gram and Icera rate adjustments that it was seeking as these were still subject to ERC evaluation.

"Since the applications are subject to evaluation by the ERC, a lot of possibilities are still open," Del Callar explained. "The ERC could decide to have a longer recovery period from what [Napocor had] applied for. It can also decide to have the amount lowered, approve the figures as filed, or require some clarifications from us before [ERC] renders its decision."

Gov't to scrimp on workers' wages, expenses

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INTENDS to implement a "personnel cap," under which line agencies will be required to set limits on their spending for salaries and wages of state workers as a means of fiscal discipline.

The Department of Budget and Management has proposed that the personnel cap be set at 45 percent of the national government's current net revenues.

The DBM wants the personnel cap to be implemented starting 2010, when the government supposedly will have posted a budget surplus. The idea is to maintain the practice of prudent spending, which the government was forced to adopt amid the deficits it has registered over the years.

In 2004, the government spent P164.1 billion for personnel services while posting a budget deficit of P180 billion. For this year, the government has programmed P170.8 billion to pay for personnel services, and expects a budget deficit of P180 billion or below.

If an agency were to exceed its budget ceiling for personnel services, the national government could decide to abolish positions or functions, or to temporarily reduce working hours.

The DBM's proposal is embodied in the proposed fiscal responsibility bill.

RP cuts use of oil-fired power plants

SOARING OIL PRICES IN THE WORLD market have prompted the National Power Corp. to reduce its use of oil-fired power plants to 8.4 percent this year from 13.2 percent in 2004.

In terms of volume, oil-fed plants are said to account for 3,357.67 gigawatt-hours (gWh) of Napocor's full-year power production, down from last year's 5,471.69 gWh.

For the August-December period alone, the state firm aims to cut the share of oil-based power plants in the generation mix to 6.8 percent from 13.7 percent during the same period in 2004.

Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said that the state firm had already succeeded in slashing the share of diesel-fired plants in its generation mix to only 10.2 percent in the first half from 15.8 percent in the same period last year.

Napocor hopes to drastically reduce its use of oil-fired plants in all three main power grids.

In Luzon, it plans to bring down the grid's share of diesel plants in the generation mix to 1.2 percent in the August-December period from last year's 10.3 percent.

In the Visayas grid, the state firm wants to reduce this share to 4.4 percent from 11.3 percent last year.

A different scenario is expected in the Mindanao grid, however, as Napocor sees the share of diesel-fed plants to increase to 27.3 percent from last year's 26.4 percent.

Del Callar explained that Mindanao oil-based plants were needed to augment the existing capacities of the grid's hydroelectric and geothermal plants.

Earlier in the month, world oil prices approached the $70-a-barrel level.

Abigail L. Ho

US companies plan to expand businesses in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE ANNOUNCED plans to expand their businesses during meetings with Philippines officials currently in New York with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said.

The trade chief said cigarette maker Philip Morris International presented to the President plans on a major upgrading program.

Favila did not provide details but he said the plan would allow PMI to operate on "a full-enhanced capacity" in the Philippines.

Also, he said information technology-enabled companies announced expansion plans that would start within the next six months, with the number of expected jobs to grow by as much as 10 times over the next three years.

Favila said among the firms were US call center operators Sutherland Global Services and Dell Inc.

Also, Favila said the US-Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Business Council would send a team to the Philippines to further strengthen trade relations and explore more investments.

He said one of the points taken up in the meeting with the US-ABC was Malacañang's position on Washington's Asean initiative on non-tariff barriers.

"They feel that it has a lot of bearing in their decision, in so far as new investments in the region are concerned," the DTI chief said.

Dutch firms said to be fearful of RP taxation

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE to resolve existing taxation issues involving the Shell Group of Companies here if it expects to see more Dutch companies investing in the country.

Ric Hettinga, the Royal Netherlands Embassy deputy chief of mission, said in a recent interview that the less obstacles to investing here, particularly with regard to taxation, the better chance there was of Dutch firms bringing their businesses into the Philippines.

"We will be happy if taxation would be such that Dutch companies can operate here," Hettinga told reporters.

But he also said that, as with any other government, taxation has both positive and negative effects. These would have to be clearly determined, particularly in light of attracting new investors.

As for the issue between the government and the Shell Group here, he said that was up to the two parties to resolve.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. had submitted a position paper to the Department of Energy regarding the possibility of keeping a tariff differential between crude and refined petroleum products.

Shell Group country chair Edgar Chua said the oil refiner was still reviewing whether it should retain or eventually close down its refinery here.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the government was willing to explore the possibility of instituting some sort of tariff differential between refiners and pure importers. *Abigail L. Ho*

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS (As of September 14, 2005):

October 6, 2005

1:00 - 3:00pm
New Innovations in Feedmilling (Micropulverizer & Pelletmill) *by:* Belmont / Muyang *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)*
Additional Reasons Why Shipping Costs are High *by:* Distribution Management Assn. of the Phils. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
Bird Flu and Mycotoxins: Emerging Challenges in Asia *by:* Nuevo Milenio *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

3:30 - 5:30
The Importance of Zinc in Piglets / Ang Pundasyon sa Tamang Paglaki / Baboy Mo, Sagot ng Eksperto *by:* Univet/Sarimanok Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)*
Suppliers Collaborative Thrust in Supply Chain Management *by:* Philippine Institute for Supply Management *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
Recent Developments in the Hog Industry in the Philippines and ASEAN Region *by:* Livestock Dev't. Council *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

October 7, 2005

10:30am - 5:30pm *by:* Le' Pavilion France *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)*

10:30am - 12:30pm
Feed Safety of GM Crops in the Philippines: Single and Stacked Traits *by:* Monsanto *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
Feeding Fish in Marine Aquaculture/ The Role of Small Scale Hatcheries in Mariculture *by:* Santeh Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

1:00 - 3:00
Ultrabiotic More Than an Antibiotic *by:* Agrimate, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*
Commercializing Backyard Pig Farms *by:* Livestock Dev't. Council *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

3:30 - 5:30
Understanding Supply Chain w/ the Supply Chain Operations Reference Model *by:* Distribution Management Assn. of the Phils. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

October 8, 2005

10:30am - 12:00nn
Agri-Products as Source in the Production of Ethanol and Cogen *by:* Philippine Sugar Millers Association *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*

10:30am - 12:30pm
Pre-Assessment: A Must in Organic Certification *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)*
Sea Cage Farming: Prospect for Business & Livelihood *by:* Santeh Feeds *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

12:30 - 2:00
Supplying Fresh Produce to the Supermarkets: Case 1: Self Operated Fresh Section Case 2: Concessionaires Fresh Section *by:* Philippine Amalgamated Supermarket Assn. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*

1:00 - 3:00
by: San Miguel Foods, Inc. *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)*
Updated on Avian Influenza Program *by:* Livestock Dev't. Council *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)*

2:30 - 4:00
Increasing the Supply of Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Through Good Postharvest Handling Practices and Technologies *by:* Postharvest Horticulture Research & Training Center *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 2)*

3:30 - 5:30
by: DA-Corn Program *(Venue: Seminar Rm. 1)*
by: Livestock Dev't. Council (Venue: Seminar Rm. 3)

4:00 - 5:30
Converting Wastes Into Profit *by:* Organic Producers Trade Association *(Venue: Seminar Room 2)*

EXHIBITORS LIST (As of September 14, 2005):

INDOOR: 3 Kingdom Trading•Abellar Eqpt.•Agrimate•Agrispecialist•Alminco Agro Dev't.•Amazon Mfg.•Aquasur Resources•Ariela Mktg.•ART, Inc.•Asia Giant•Atlanta Inds.•ATS Int'l.•ATT Group•Bajon Ent.•Belmont Agricorp.•BFAR•Brain Computer•Brownstone Asia-Tech.•BSB Group•Cargill Phils./Purina•Cathay Drug•Chia Tung Phils.•City of San Jose del Monte Bulacan•CJ Asia•Console Farms•DA-NAFC•Diconex•Directories Phils.•eFeedlink•Feedmix Specialist•Filco Corp.•First Phil. Scales•Floatech/Santeh Feeds•Gartech Eqpts.•Glenwood Tech.•Grains Handlers•H-Star Ent.•Inca Plastics•Indola Int'l.•Interheat•Jelda Farms•Korea Trade Cntr. Mla.•King Louis Flowers & Plants•L.A. Agro Ind'l.•Land Bank of the Phils.•Le Pavilion France•Livestock Group•Luz Farms•Manila Bulletin•MARID Agribusiness Magazine•Mary Check Corp.•Maysan Casting•Microserve Computer•MIK Phils.•Miracle Farming Ent.•Monsanto Phils.•National FMD Task Force•National Food Authority•Netafim Phils./Israel Embassy•New Tatson•NOGROCOMA•Nuevo Milenio•Philchema•PHILRICE•Philusa Corp.•PIC Phils.•Pigpro Systems•Prov'l. Gov't. of Bulacan•Rechemco Phils.•Rock Energy Int'l.•Royal Vet Ent.•Rustan Mktg.•San Miguel Foods/Vetmed Petfood•Supervet Int'l.•Synergy Sales Int'l.•Syngenta Phils.•Tang-Cor Mfg.•TFT Animal Health/Innotech•The Netherlands Pavilion•Universal Robina Corp.•Univet/Sarimanok Feeds/Thunderbird•Valli Int'l.•Vemaval, Inc. ***RETAIL:*** Agri-Aqua Network Int'l.•Country Dried•DA-RFU Pavilion•DAR•East West Seed•Eastern Wire•Ellio's Roasted Calf•Eng Bee Tin Chinese Deli•Exquisite Focus•G.O. Eng'g.•Green Petals•Halcyon AA Agrix•Harbest Agribusiness•Hoobee Packaging•KSK Food Prods.•Las Casas De Cala Buena•Penny & Nickel•Perez Ent.•PhilHybrid•Polland Hopia•Puerto del Sol Beach Resort•Ramgo Int'l.•Sagana 100 Phils.•Sam's Everything on Stick•Seminis Vegetable Seeds•Shawarma Republic•THMJ Mktg.•WS Pacific Publication•*OPTA PAVILION:* Arengga-Bote Central•Back to Basics•Good Kitchen/My Goodness Cookies•Inosphil•Mana ni Ka Mila Foods•Natural Wonders•Rita Ritz Bakeshop•RS Bio Foods Palawan•Sorsogon Foods Ent.•Tobees Apiary•Union Agridyne Prods.•*PHILFOODEX PAVILION:* AC Fruits•Asia Pacific Tuna•Carica•Carm Foods•Dalisay Sweets•Fenor Foods•Gourmet Farms•Ilocos Foods•Jammies Homebake Goodies•Kitchen Ala Ching•Mega Fishing•Navarro Foods•On the Go Ventures•Pickfresh•RPM Pili Nut•The Merry Cooks•Toscano Soriano ***OUTDOOR:*** Cargill Phils.•Infarmco Group•LISI Agr'l. Foundation•Pagtakhan Lechon Manok•TOPIGS Phils.

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Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

The nation celebrates

The 9th National Urban Pest Control Week

4th Week of September, 2005 * Per Presidential Proclamation 990/s-97

Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My esteemed greetings to the officers and members of the National Committee on Urban Pest Control on the occasion of your 9th National Urban Pest Control Week.

Your theme, "Managing Urban Pests in Commercial and Industrial Establishments Effectively through the Use of Local but Proven Urban Pest Control Technologies." speaks well of the protection you provide to our nation against imported and banned pesticides and to our industries against urban pests through good management and use of local urban pest control technologies.

I laud the National Committee on urban Pest Control for spearheading this event which opens new horizons for the development of our commercial and industrial establishments that, in turn, will help our economy to grow.

Let us work together in achieving our ten-point legacy agenda. I believe that with your cooperation, altruism and perseverance, we will be able to build a strong Philippine Republic.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO (*Sgd.*)
President of the Philippines

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

My warmest felicitations to the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as they celebrate the 9th National Urban Pest Control Week on September 19-25, 2005.

The theme of the celebration: "Managing Urban Pests In Commercial And Industrial Establishments Effectively Through the Use Of Local But Proven Urban Pests Control Technologies." is indeed deserving of praise. The focus on indigenous methods to address one of the most persistent problems of precipitant urbanization is a very significant endeavor. This will promote homegrown pest control technology as well as prevent further depletion of our valuable foreign exchange reserves.

The need for a long-term environmentally-friendly pest management strategy is more resonant now than ever before in the face of the dengue outbreak now affecting a significant area in the country. This epidemic has been a chronic dilemma and has taken toll in the lives of our countrymen as well as the national budget.

I commend the NCUPC for its numerous significant achievements in the field of urban pest control. Furthermore, I exhort the eminent men and women of the NCUPC and the different supporting national agencies to further persevere in this worthwhile endeavor as these undertakings will move us steps closer to our objective of poverty alleviation and the attainment of sustainable development for our country.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO (*Sgd.*)
Vice President of the Philippines
Republic of the Philippines

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Manila

My sincerest greetings to the officers and members of the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) on the occasion of the 9th National Urban Pest Control Week on September 19-25, 2005.

This year's theme, "Managing Urban Pests in Commercial and Industrial Establishments Effectively Through the Use of Local But Proven Pest Control Technologies." underscores your commitment to continuously tread more avenues to intensify the battle against urban pests, this time focusing on the country's indigenous pest control expertise. May the outcome of this event be translated into a concrete action for the greater benefit of our people and the bigger society we all seek to serve.

I commend NCUPC for remaining resolute in your mission to eradicate and prevent the growth and spread of disease-transmitting pests. Your existence is indeed meaningful for you have proven to be a dedicated anti-pest advocate, constantly seeking ways on how to further enhance pest-control in the country therefore contributing to its development.

On this occasion, I fervently hope that you reaffirm your commitment to continue your noble undertakings as we in the city government push forth our accelerating urban renewal and development program.

The City of Manila hopes for the success of this event.

Tuloy-tuloy and programang "Buhayin and Maynila!".

Buhay na Maynila, Buhay ng Bansa!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor

PROGRAMME

"URBAN PEST CONTROL FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS"

THEME: "Managing Urban Pests In Commercial And Industrial Establishments Effectively Through The Use Of Local But Proven Urban Pest Control Technologies."

PROGRAM CONTENTS FOR CONFERENCE PROPER
(September 20, 2005, 8.00 A.M. to 5.00 PM.)

On-Site Registration of Participants	8:00 - 9:00
PART 1 (Opening Ceremonies)	
Invocation MRS. NANCY RUSSELL CATAN Vice President for Administration and Finance, MAPECON Phils. Inc. Philippine National Anthem Opening Remarks DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY Executive Director, National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) Welcome Remarks HON. LITO L. ATIENZA, JR. City Mayor, Manila Introduction of the Keynote Speaker DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY Executive Director, National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) Keynote Address HON. JOSE D. LINA, JR. Former Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) President, The Manila Hotel HON. OSCAR P. PALABYAB Undersecretary, Tourism Services & Regional Offices Department of Tourism (DOT)	
Coffee Break	10:15 - 10:30
PART 2 (Conference Proper)	
More Waste, More Pests: How Far Are We In The Implementation of RA 9003? Speaker: DR. LIWANAG M. GODINEZ Executive Director Health Operations Center, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA)	10:30 - 11:00
Common Commercial And Industrial Pests: As Vectors And Carriers of Diseases Speaker: DR. JOSEPH Y. ARICHETA, MPH, CESE Medical Specialist II, Environmental & Occupational Health, NCDPC Department of Health (DOH)	11:00 - 11:00
Open Forum	11:30 - 12:00
Lunch Break	12:00 - 1:00
Enforcement Of Sanitation Code (Presidential Decree 856) And Sanitary Requirements (Presidential Decrees 522 & 1096) In Commercial And Industrial Establishments Speaker: INSPECTOR DANIEL ALBA Sanitary Inspector III City Sanitation Office, City Government of Quezon	1:00 - 1:45
Local But Proven Effective Pest Control Technologies For Application In Commercial And Industrial Establishments Speaker: HON. GONZALO O. CATAN, JR. Vice Chairman, Board of Agriculture, Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Technical Director, National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC)	1:45 - 2:30
Open Forum	2:00 - 2:45
Coffee Break	2:45 - 3:00
Workshop: Planning An Effective Pest Control Program For Commercial And Industrial Establishments	3:00 - 4:00
Part 3 (Closing Ceremonies)	
Closing Remarks/Oath Taking as Members of the NCUPC DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY Executive Director National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) Presentation of Participants & Distribution of Certificates of Participation/ Appearance DR. METODIO A. PALAYPAY HON. GONZALO O. CATAN, JR. Closing Prayer MR. JULIUS O. GABON Souvenir Photo-Taking	

MR. RAYMUNDO L. ATIENZA
Vice President for External Affairs, Manila Bulletin
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

9th NATIONAL URBAN PEST CONTROL WEEK CONFERENCE
Coral Hall Ballroom, 3rd Floor Manila Pavilion Hotel,
United Nations Avenue, Ermita Manila, Metro Manila
September 20, 2005 (Tuesday, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.)
For Inquiries & Reservation call the NCUPC Secretariat
Tel No.(02) 536-8982, Fax (02) 484-0208

Pest Control Week kicks-off with national conference

AMIDST POLITICAL CRISIS EXPERIENCED by the present government, the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC), under the Office of the President, has not stopped its promotion of projects and campaigns toward a safer and cleaner environment through proper control of urban pests. Today kicks off the official celebration of the 9th National Urban Pest Control Week as per Presidential Proclamation 990 s-97.

This year's theme is "Managing Urban Pests In Commercial and Industrial Establishments Effectively Through the Use of Local But Proven (38 Patented Pest Control, Green Charcoal Hydrogen and Bio-Activated Carbon) Urban Pest Control Technologies." The event is highlighted with a national conference entitled Urban Pest Control For Commercial And Industrial Establishments to be held on September 20, 2005, Tuesday, at the Coral Ballroom of the Manila Pavilion Hotel, UN Ave., Ermita Manila. The conference will be from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Personalities from government offices and NGOs will grace the conference. Dr. Metodio A. Palaypay, Exec. Dir., NCUPC, stressed that the conference will tackle many issues concerning the development of commercial and industrial establishments. Dr. Liwanag M. Godinez, Exec. Dir., Health and Operations Center, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will take up "More Wastes, More Pests: How far are we in the implementation of Republic Act 9003?" "Common Commercial And Industrial Pests: As Vectors and Carriers of Diseases" will be explained by Dr. Joseph Y. Aricheta of the National Center For Disease Prevention & Control, Department of Health (DOH). City Health Officer Paz U. Ugalde of Quezon City Health Department will discuss "Enforcement of Sanitation Code (Presidential Decree 856) and Sanitary Requirements (Presidential Decrees 522 & 1096) in Commercial and Industrial Establishments." And multi-awarded Inventor Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr. will take up "Local But Proven Effective Pest Control Technologies For Application in Commercial And Industrial Establishments."

Also gracing the event are Mayor Lito Atienza of the City of Manila, Hon. Jose Lina, former Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government and now President of The Manila Hotel, Hon. Oscar P. Palabyab, Undersecretary for Tourism Services & Regional Offices of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and leaders of environmental organizations and other non-government organizations. Participants from all over the country are expected to attend the celebration. They include local government officials, members of cause-oriented organizations, pest control operators, and delegates from academic institutions.

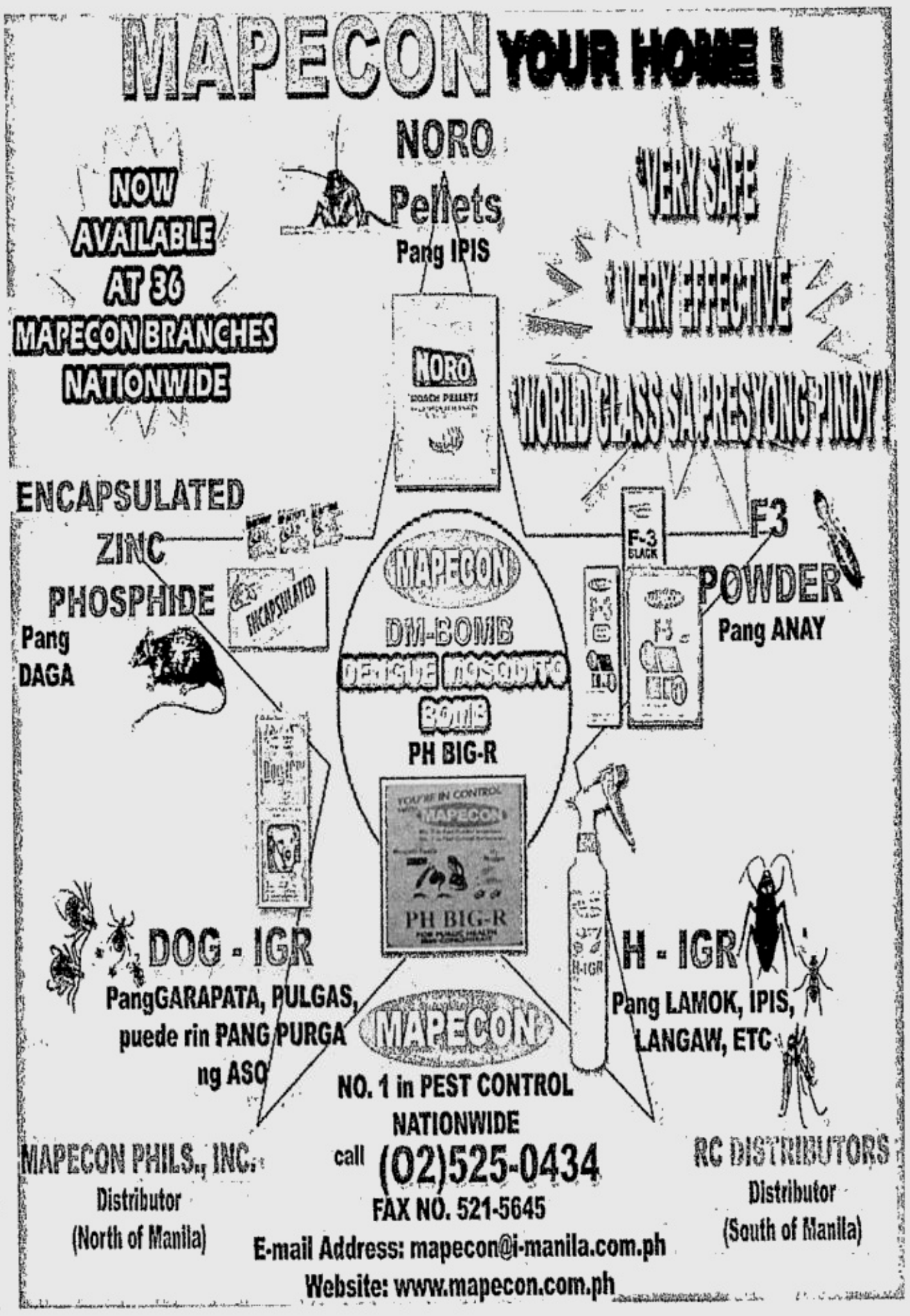
Prior to the national conference, seminars have been given throughout the year in cities, municipalities, barangays and schools to further increase awareness of controlling pests through the use of local, proven technologies. NCUPC together with MAPECON Phils. Inc. conducts Sunday Missions in orphanages, barangays, homes for the aged, prison cells, rehabilitation areas and other places infected by the dengue virus transmitted by Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes.

Invr. Gonzalo O. Catan, Jr. aides the government through his award-winning technologies, patented pest control products, Green Charcoal Hydrogen to replace LPG, Bio-Activated Carbon (5kg. worth P/500.00 can shield one big house vs. air pollution for 6 months). Invr. Catan further developed his already awarded Insect Growth Regulator (IGR), (Silver Medal in the Geneva Switzerland International Convention of Inventions in 1999 defeating almost 1,000 entries from around the globe) into a more effective and environment-friendly Botanical Insect Growth Regulator (BIG-R). BIG-R is a groundbreaking achievement in the pest control industry as it is most safe to humans and to the environment. It contains botanical extracts that attack the ecdyson (growth hormones) of insects thereby disabling the stages of growth. And because it is botanical it is safe to use as this does not affect humans or the environment. In fact, one product of Invr. Catan, DOG-IGR contains the same active ingredient for use against your pets' external parasites like garapata, polgas, etc. and most of all it can also be mixed with dog food as it also acts against intestinal parasites without harming your pets. A truly amazing feat in the pest control industry - no more hazardous insecticides!

Currently, Invr. Catan is combating the high price of LPG and the hazards it brings with his Green Charcoal Hydrogen Cooking and Fuel System. This process is officially a Philippines technology and contribution to the world as this is encoded in RA 9003. With this system you can have a better cooking fuel alternative. It also won a Bronze Medal in the Geneva International Convention of Inventions. The JC-GC Hydrogen Cooking System lets you save 20% over your current LPG prices and frees you from the diseases brought about by LPG's Nitrogen Dioxide emission. The manufacturing plant is located in Alaminos, Laguna together with his production of world-class Activated Carbon.

Despite these astounding contributions of Invr. Catan, this Filipino "David" is continuously opposed by transnational corporations (TNCs) using government offices as pawns. These TNCs feed Filipinos with products which are expensive, chemical-based, and toxic. An article by Bernardo V. Lopez in his column in "The Business World" entitled "A Filipino David faces Goliath TNCs" commented, "Once Filipino buyers know of the benefits they enjoy for buying MAPECON's pest control, green charcoal and activated carbon products, Catan and his MAPECON can actually wipe out all the no-conscience TNCs in one sweep." MAPECON and NCUPC in 8 winning court decisions have underscored Lopez' statement..

For any inquiry regarding his Pateneted pest Control products, services and branches TEXT 0920-911-3886; for Green Charcoal Hydrogen stoves TEXT 0919-335-2111; and Activated Carbon TEXT 0918-506-0076. You may also e-mail to mapecon@i-manila.com.ph or visit the website www.mapecon.com.ph . *JCG*



Mobile computing made easy

ASUS INTRODUCES ANOTHER solution to the mobile computing needs of businessmen, young executives and even students. The new A3500N laptop, a high-performance laptop with excellent wireless connectivity, makes it easy for everybody to get into that mobile lifestyle.

With people realizing the need for mobility, the technology allows users to take their files with them to the coffee shop or to the client's office for presentation. This makes every nook an extension of the user's office and every moment the laptop is open as productive as the time they are sitting on their office table.

Portability, performance, battery life, integrated wireless networking and affordable pricing combined makes the Asus A3500N a real value notebook.

Asus A3500N is powered by Intel's latest Centrino platform, 256 MB memory, 40 GB hard disk drive, integrated wireless LAN, and 15-inch screen. The Asus A3 workhorse offers the best value to today's mobile users.

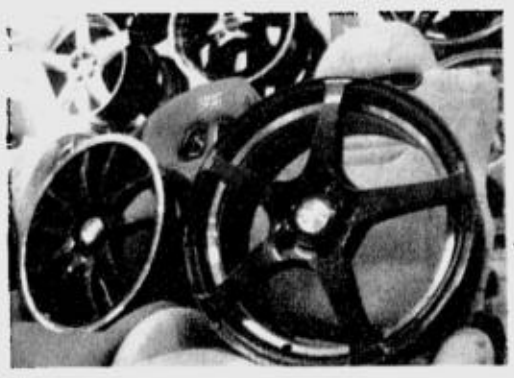
For more information, e-mail richard@banbros.ph.

Carbon fiber wheels

CONCEPT ONE IS SPICING UP THE AFTERmarket industry with wheels in Carbon Fiber Lamina technology. These lightweight and durable wheels are popular in both the US and European markets. The Carbon Fiber Lamina wheels feature triple coated polymer protection, further strengthened by twin technology finishes with machine cut polished lips.

Concept One is also introducing the Twenty Inches Strong (TIS) line of wheels imported from the United States and highly desired by the bling crowd. These are the wheels that you see on MTV and rides of Hollywood celebrities such as Shaquille O'Neal and Busta Rhymes. All Concept One wheels have passed stringent quality specifications by the Japan Wheel License (JWL) and Vehicle Inspection Association (VIA), which are international quality benchmark standards. All Concept One Wheels meet, if not exceed, these stringent specifications and are widely used and proven in the United States and Europe, too.

Shown are Concept One's Carbon Fiber Lamina wheels, saddled on Concept One's leather edition sport seats, from left, Racing Hart, Emotion and Series 5. At the foreground is the chrome finish TIS-01. Concept One racing seats feature a full lightweight tubular steel frame for durability and safety. Concept One's sport seats are fully reclinable making them ideal for street and competition use. All seats have built-in adaptors and racing four-point and five-point seatbelt harnesses.

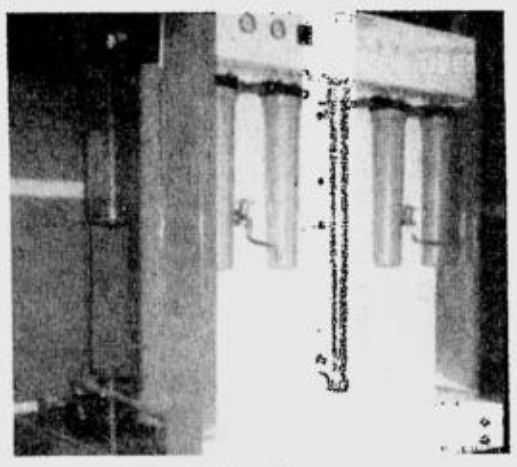


For more information on how to rev up your car or office interiors, visit Wheel Gallery at 318 Santolan Road, Greenhills, San Juan or call 724-7176, 726-0965 or log on to www.conceptonewheels.com.

Low-cost, germ-free water station

THE TYPICAL RO (REVERSE osmosis) water refilling equipment throws away seven out of 10 gallons of water, making it environmentally unfriendly and unprofitable. It is also expensive to set up and are bulky, heavy and expensive to operate.

The modern, cost-effective way to safe, germ-free and profitable water is by using the Electromex UHP500 compact semi-portable, stand-alone, fully ozonated 3,000 gallons-per-day water-refilling equipment. Used in France, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and by the Los Angeles water district, ozonation is 300 times more effective in killing bacteria as well as removing lead and mercury from water than any RO system.



THE ELECTROMEX UHP500

With a cost of production of only 30 centavos per gallon, UHP500 guarantees instant profit and quick returns in investment faster than any business below P150,000. UHP500 comes complete with the tanks, filters, pumps, carbon, ultra violet and ozone generator. Just plug it in a 220-volt outlet, connect to your water hose, and start getting clean water and making money, as well.

For more details, call Electromex Inc at 531-6782, 535-9069, or log on to www.electromex-inc.com.

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate Manila** not later than **September 28, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P1,000.00.**

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
1.	240 sq.m. residential lot with 2-storey house	No. 20 Morocco St., Better Living Subd., Parañaque City	2,619,000.00
2.	1,163 sq.m. commercial/ residential lot	Quezon Boulevard, Poblacion, Malasiqui, Pangasinan	1,477,000.00
3.	93 sq.m. 2-storey townhouse erected on a 45.95 sq.m. lot	No. 125-J Maryland St., Brgy. Immaculate Concepcion, Quezon City	1,495,000.00
4.	29.87 sq.m. residential-studio type Condominium Unit 707	7th Floor PYP Mansion II Condo Bldg., No. 78 Ignacio Santos Diaz Street, Cubao, Quezon City	1,075,000.00
5.	37.57 sq.m. residential-studio type Condominium Unit 708		1,353,000.00
6.	400 sq.m.residential lot	St. Louis St., Tumbok of St. Peter St., Don Bosco Vill., Parañaque City	1,200,000.00
7.	250 sq.m. lot with 2-storey building	Poblacion, San Mateo, Isabela	3,500,000.00

For Item No. 7, public bidding will be held at LBP Leasing Corp., 15th Floor, SSHG Law Center, No. 105 Paseo de Roxas St., Makati City. For inquiry & bidding forms, please contact Ms. Beth or Ms. Riza at Tel. No. 818-2200.

For the complete description of Items Nos. 1-6 including bidding forms, you may look for Ms. Tina Ilasin or Ms. Arlene Velasco at Special Assets Department (SPAD), Land Bank of the Philippines located at the 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M. H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila (near Diamond Hotel). Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the abovelisted properties before entering their bids. The sale of the properties shall be **on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.** The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, then the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI-Sept. 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

BCDA

Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 3

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 3 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 3). ADP Phase 3 involves the development and privatization of the approximately: (1) 548-square meter portion of Nichols Loop located at Nichols Interchange, along South Superhighway, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City; (2) 86-square meter portion of the Tricycle Terminal Area in Fort Bonifacio; and (3) 1,143-square meter temporary quarters in Fort Bonifacio

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 3 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization

The TOR for ADP Phase 3 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents starting on 19 September 2005 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php2,000.00, for each TOR, payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 05 October 2005. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that form part of ADP Phase 3, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 3 COMMITTEE (ADPCom-3)
Bases Conversion Development Authority
2/f Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave.,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 816-6666 or 816-1043

ISAAC S. PUNO III
Executive Vice President

(PDI-Sept. 15, 19 & 26, 2005)

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MANILA

CONDO NR UST 09155835289

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NEW MANILA 0917-5213838

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KALOOCAN

Whispering Palm 103m² 983-7942

MANDALUYONG

MAND EDSA 400m² 645-3731

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1578m² Nr Katipunan 6341212

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2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Value Money Pawnshop
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PDI–Sept. 19, 2005

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BIARSP

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

Office Furniture

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation, BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

To further strengthen the programme's implementation, BIARSP supports its lead partner agency, the DAR, in upgrading the physical state of its field offices to provide conducive working environment for its staff and have efficient delivery of service. The purchase of office tables, office chairs, type writing tables, bookshelves, office cabinets, visitor's chairs are found to be necessary.

The BIARSP-Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) therefore invites eligible companies to express their interest to pre qualify to bid for the above office equipment. The equipment shall be delivered to the four (4) provinces of Region VII and four (4) provinces of Region IX.

Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES - Tenders) for the detailed list of office equipment to be purchased as well as delivery destinations for said equipment. Please submit document with information such as company profile, proposed budgetary requirements, description/ experience of similar assignments through any of the following:

E-mail : tsco@biarsptsco.org
Post : BIARSP - TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y. Mar Bldg., Cor. Rizal Blvd. - San Juan Street, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax : (035) 422-7736

For further queries, please get in touch with Mary Marlyn C. Llosa, Administrative Officer, at tel. #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8681; and 422-7459.

In view of the urgency of the proposed activity, interested parties are advised to submit their documents not later than September 30, 2005.

(PDI - Sept. 18 & 19, 2005)

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

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PLASTIC INJECTION MOULDERS
- (2) ARBURG ALLROUNDER 320-210-500 50T Cap. Horizontal Plastic Injection Moulding Machines;
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- ARBURG ALLROUNDER 220-75-250 25T Cap. Vertical Plastic Injection Moulding Machine

Sale Closes: Thursday, 22 September 2005 - 6:00pm (local time)
Location of Assets: Canlubang, Laguna
Viewing: Strictly by Appointment
For further information please contact Maggie Calderon-Alicante at Tel: 852 2910 loc. 111 Email: obert.cinco@henrybutcher.com

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The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of

J. Romero Advertising

announce with deep sorrow the passing of their Chairman Emeritus

Fanny Santamaria vda. de Romero

Beloved wife of Javier "Jake" Romero

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 after the 4:00pm requiem mass at La Capilla de La Virgen at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

CLASSIFIEDS

PARA conducts reality appraisal seminar

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Realty Appraisers (PARA) will hold its 27th Comprehensive Real Estate Appraisal Seminar and Review (CREASAR) for four consecutive Saturdays starting on Oct. 01, 08, 15 and 22, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 1-6 p.m., Main Dining Hall, Penthouse, Old Makati Stock Exchange, Building, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. This was announced by PARA Exec, vice president and education chair Engr. Ferdie C. Catral (751-4325).

Acccording to PARA Chair Vic Salinas (822-3855), the objective of this CREASAR is to provide a practical guide to those interested participants in making a successful livelihood from real estate appraisal business. Practicing appraisers who are not licensed (from banks, city assessors and private appraisal companies) and licensed real estate brokers actively working for 5 years who are planning to take the licensure examination scheduled on Nov. 27, will benefit highly from this program.

Carol Q. Alvarez (812-5360), PARA president informed that all course topics will be presented by highly qualified, experienced and successful real estate practitioners from PARA and for licensed real estate brokers and appraiser who will attend and seminar earn 16 hours CEP credit for renewal of their license.

Registration is now open at PARA office, Unit 2202, Cityland 10, 6815 Ayala Ave., HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City Telefax (02) 813-2708. E-mail para@yahoo.com limited seats only Please call PARA Secretariat for reservation, or Dr Mary Gaw So (Pro) 0918-9236496

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. Victorias City, Negros Occidental would like to invite bidders to bid for the following on an "As is where is basis" inclusive of VAT:

Description	Approximate Population of Swine	Floor Price
1. Sale of the total Population of Swine	5,000 heads	P 5,000.00/head
2. Lease of Piggery Facilities		2,135,000.00/year
3. Lease of Organic Fertilizer Facilities		1,418,000.00/year

Bid documents are available for issuance from **September 19** to **October 3, 2005** during office hours at the **Sugar Marketing Division Office** (located at former Urban Bank Building), VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental and at the **VMC Makati Office** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. The pre-bid conference will be on **October 3, 2005 (Monday)** at **3:00 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room**, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental. Only those who participated in the pre-bidding conference are qualified to participate in the commercial bidding. Interested bidders may inspect bid items starting September 19, 2005, after securing the bidding kit. The commercial bidding will be on **October 10, 2005 (Monday)** at **3:00 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room**, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bond of P2,500,000.00 in the form of manager's check. The bond of the winning bidder will be withheld by the Bidding Committee and will be treated as advance payment for the sale of the livestock. Pertinent information regarding the sale of the total population of swine, and lease of Piggery and Organic Fertilizer facilities are included in the bidding kit. Total sales will be based on final inventory-taking of swine in the presence of the winning bidder on **October 14, 2005.** Awarding of bids is subject to the approval of the VMC Board of Directors.

For further inquiries, please contact **Mr. Andy S. Asparen** at Sugar Marketing Division Office, VMC Millsite at tel. nos. **(034)399-3382** and **(local)2319** and **2380, Mr. Ernesto Oligo** at VMC Makati Office at tel. nos. **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062** or visit our website at **www.victoriasmilling.com.**

VMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI-Sept. 19 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Lanao del Norte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Improvement of San Vicente - Butadon - Sta. Cruz - GMA Loop FMR
Location:	SBS ARC, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte
Brief Description	Concreting of 6.991 kilometers Farm-to-Market Road.
Approved Budget Cost	Php 41,956,669.27
Contract Duration	178 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars, relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 30-October 06, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 30-October 06, 2005
3. Deadline for the Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 06, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 10, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 10-22, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 25, 2005, 9.00AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 07, 2005, 10.00AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Office of the BAC Secretariat, Gov. Arsenio A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte, upon their submission of a LOI and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos only (PHP750.00)** to the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is **P419,566.70.**
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount P1,048,918.75 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or by a reputable surety or insurance company and to be posted in favor of the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Fifteen Thousand Pesos only (Php 15,000.00)** to the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte's Cashier.

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **REGINALDO M. CASTILLANO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Negros
Provincial General Services Office
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Oriental Negros thru the Bids and Awards Committee invites interested suppliers to Pre qualify and submit sealed bids for the various construction material to be bidded out in bulk for the completion of the Convention Center (Phase-1), Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

All bidders must be pre-qualified and accredited not later than September 29, 2005, the scheduled date of the Pre-Bid Conference, which will be conducted at 9:30 in the morning at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before October 11, 2005 not later than 9:30 in the morning by the Bids and Awards Committee at the same venue at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Provincial General Services Officer
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 26, 2005)

OBITUARIES

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA
•LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
•MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 695-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
•MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
•MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
•MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tels. 493-4456; 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447
•MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
•PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
•PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
•PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
•QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ELYSIUM GARDENS
277 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 723-76-51; 723-6494; 723-6335
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalinaya St., Quezon City Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9269/87
•TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

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•ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City; Tels. (052) 820-0168; 0917-2074152
•BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
•BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
•BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Tallsay Road, Balanga City, Bataan Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766
•BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
•CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
•CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
•DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1256
•ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
•LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa, Laguna Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142; Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963
•PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
•RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870 Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026; 650-7426; Fax : 697-2764
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal; Tels. 649-5949; 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855
•ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1096; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

With deepest sorrow,
we announce the passing of our
Senior Partner

Haydee B. Yorac

on September 12, 2005

Atty. Yorac is survived by her mother Josefa, her sisters Evelyn, Stella, Margot, Carmen and Amy and her brother Joey.

Her remains will lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City from Sunday, September 18, 2005 until 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 21, 2005.

Thereafter, her remains shall be at the UP Chapel, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the UP Chapel. (Please omit flowers)

We request her friends and pious readers to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

YORAC ARROYO CHUA CAEDO & CORONEL LAW FIRM

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION 1936

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
MBGPP-05-001

The Makban Geothermal Power Plant Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT
A1	36 pcs. Plate, Stainless, SUS 304, 100mmt X 1220w X 2440L 240 kg. Welding Electrodes E-308 and E-309 and 6 other items	MAK-05-150	P2,341,000.00

DATE OF BIDDING : September 27, 2005; 10:00 AM
NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Makban Science Centrum on September 15, 2005; 10:00 AM

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Administration Section, Admin/Finance Division, Makban Geothermal Power Plant, Bgy. Bitin, Bay Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 per schedule starting **September 13, 2005.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Makban Science Centrum, Bgy. Bitin, Bay Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Should there be questions on the bid documents, bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference.

Any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statements, or any changes in the situation of the bidder to materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the BAC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with ***"IRR of Republic Act. 9184".***

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee _ One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the followng: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **B.J. MONZON**
Chairman - BAC, MBGPP

(PDI - September 12 & 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

Case No. LMRO 05-116

RE: **Application for grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate tramp service to any port in the Philippines with the use of the vessel named MV "THE GOOD SAMARITAN" for the carriage of cargoes only pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.**

TEKTITE SHIPPING CORPORATION
Applicant.
x----------x

ORDER

This refers to the application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) filed by applicant on 08 September 2005, to operate its ship for the carriage of cargoes only to any port in the Philippines, as follows:

For Tramp Operation

Name of Ship/s	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV "THE GOOD SAMARITAN"	To any port in the Philippines	To operate on a tramping service for the carriage of various cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **21 September 2005, Wednesday at 10:00 AM** at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority-V, 2nd Floor RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 08th day of September 2005, Legazpi City, Philippines.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD:

(Sgd.) **LUCITA T. MADARANG**
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

SF-GOOD-05 REF. No. CL – 05-09-0333

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *City Government of Zamboanga*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	Location/Office	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration P.R. No.	Delivery Period
1. Drug and Medicine	STOCKS'CHD	Belahistine Mesylate	203,975.00	100-05-09-1935	15 wd
		Canesten Vaginal Tabs	149,160.00	100-05-09-1936	
		etc..	63,275.00	100-05-09-1938	
			103,500.00	100-05-09-1937	
			1,220,075.00	100-05-09-1921	
			123,500.00	100-05-09-1922	
			70,000.00	100-05-09-1931	
			321,750.00	100-05-09-1929	
			370,915.00	100-05-09-1927	
			508,500.00	100-05-09-1926	
			179,500.00	100-05-09-1925	
			310,000.00	100-05-09-1923	
			3,654,150.00		

Prospective bidders should have experience in understanding a similar project within the last (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 16-28
2. Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at City Budget Office, City Hall, Zamboanga	September 17, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	September 29, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	September 29, 2005
5. Post qualification	September 30, 2005
6. Notice of Award	October 3, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 each item to the City Treasurer.

The City Government of Zamboanga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved:

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA SAN AGUSTIN GARA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 19 & 24, 2005)

PNOC
the Energy Company

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-2024 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites consultancy firms to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the **TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY FOR ISABELA INTEGRATED MINE MOUTH COAL FIRED POWER PLANT (IP05-878).**

The approved budget for this contract is Php.2,000,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC 2005 Corporate Budget.

Eligibility Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Atejandro) starting **September 12, 2005** upon presentation of Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Hundred (PHP 500.00). Eligibility of prospective consultants will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, The Government Procurement Reform Act. The deadline for the submission of LOI will be documents will be on **October 3, 2005 @ 4.00 P.M.** while the deadline for the submission of eligibility documents will be on or before **October 10, 2005** up to 4:00 P.M. Late submission of eligibility documents shall not be accepted. Only those short listed consultants will be entitled to submit bids.

PNOC EC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted *LOIs* and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of 3 to 7 consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

- Applicable experience – 30%
- Qualification of personnel to be assigned to the job (education, work experience, number of years in firm, etc.) – 50%
- Current work load relative to capacity – 20%

PNOC EC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense in the preparation of the bid. Moreover, PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-cc.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservices.net.

(Sgd.) **JOSE M. EIJANSANTOS**
Chairman
Bids Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 19, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 3:00 p.m. on October 5, 2005 at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the supply and installation of the following:

1. Virtual Private Network Concentrator 3005-E, 7 units
2. Ethernet switch with software 24 10/100, 12 units
3. Port adaptor, 20 units

Total approved budget ceiling: P2,859,564.00

The pre-bid conference will be held on September 21, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. SPMO-SYS, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Bid documents are available starting September 12, 2005 at the SPMO-SYS. Contact person: Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No. 926-4919, email address: egsabat@up.edu.ph

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) MARTIN V. GREGORIO
Vice-President for Administration

(PDI – September 19, 2005)

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Per DTI NCR Permit # A3-769. Series of 2005.

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Excellent value for money with rich multimedia features.
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Intel® 915PM Express Chipset
Intel® PROWireless 2200BG Network Connection 802.11b/g
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
• Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
• Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
• 256MB DDR SDRAM / 40GB HDD with shock absorber
• CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
• 15.0" (38.1cm) XGA TFT display with Clear SuperView technology
• ATI Mobility Radeon X300 with 64MB Video RAM
• Toshiba Express Media Player allows quick play startup of DVD and CD
• Internal harman/kardon® stereo speakers with SRS TruSurround XT™ sound technology
• Integrated Bluetooth™, 8-in-1 card reader, 4 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE 1394), and Fast InfraRed port
• 1-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

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P7,190/12MOS.
FREE 256MB RAM Upgrade

PORTÉGÉ A200
Stylish Pearl White clear coat chassis with Clear SuperView display technology.
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Intel® Pentium® M Processor 725
(1.60GHz, 2MB Cache, 400MHz FSB)
Intel® PROWireless Network Connection 802.11g
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
• Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
• Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
• 12.1" (30.7cm) Poly-Silicon XGA TFT display
• 512MB DDR SDRAM
• 60GB HDD with shock absorber
• CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
• SD slot, 3 x USB 2.0, i.LINK (IEEE1394), and S-video TV-Out ports
• Up to 3.8 hours battery life with standard battery pack
• 3-Year carry-in International Limited Warranty (parts and labor)

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Wide screen display with mind-blowing multimedia horsepower.
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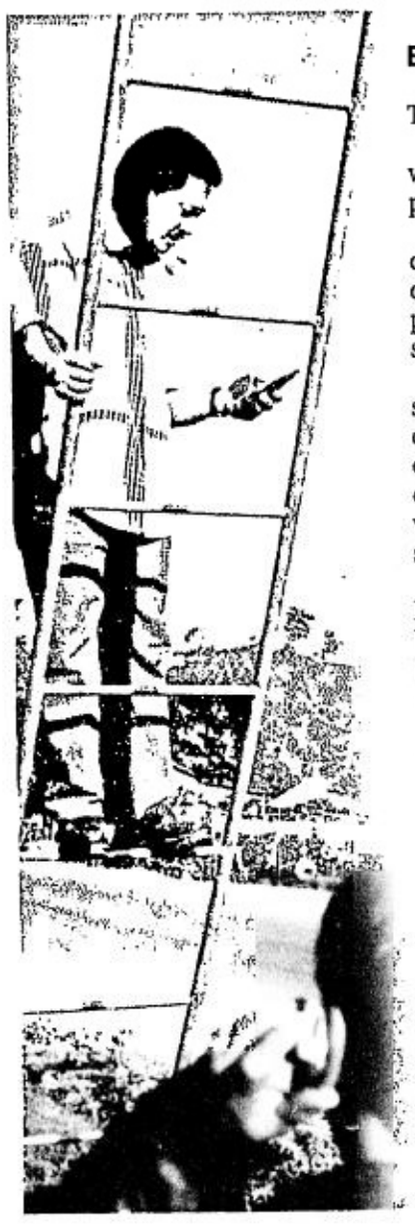
BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

CHEAP TALK

Telcos offer call, text all you can pricing



By Clarissa S. Batino

TALK IS CHEAP.

And it is getting even cheaper while the cost of fuel and other products continue to soar.

In fact, costs of telecommunication services are the only ones dropping since last year when prices of most other goods and services have been skyrocketing.

Thanks to a price war that spurred all these innovative deals. The deals have since become mainstays in today's buffet offering for telecom users, whether of mobile or landline services.

Even the cost of calling abroad has dropped although telcos are bundling the promo with their high-speed Internet services to sign up more subscribers.

Each phone company now, whether a mobile operator or a fixed-line provider, be it large or small, is trying to outdo one another in selling eat-all-you-can promos within the network to either attract more customers or simply fend off competition and protect precious market share.

With so many deals on the table, subscribers, especially the new ones, could get lost in the maze. To be clear, all mobile phone offers apply only to prepaid subscribers while those on fixed-line are mostly for postpaid customers.

Telcos say that postpaid mobile customers already enjoy embedded discounts in their plans while landline operators are focusing on postpaid clients.

Useless deals

Price is of course a major consideration for all these deals. Who can offer the cheapest price for the longest talk or text time is an important question. But equally crucial is the extent of the subscriber base and the network reach.

A good offer doesn't mean anything if you can't get through because of network inefficiency or insufficiency or if you have nobody to call and text with.

Each operator would tell you theirs is the best deal. Perhaps it is, depending on what you need and how you intend to use your phone.

Who started it

So let's start with the one that started it.

Sun Cellular, the mobile phone brand of Gokongwei's Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. set off the price war in the mobile industry dominated by Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc., together with their alter egos Talk 'N Text and Touch Mobile.

The third player, which launched its wireless services in March 2003, introduced in October 2004 its 24/7 scheme where calls and text within the network are charged a flat rate of what used to be P250 for 30 days and P100 for 10 days but had been increased in May to P350 for one month and P100 for 7 days.

It also recently introduced the 24/7 Text Unlimited of P150 for 30 days and P50 for 7 days. For a while it also tried out a P20-worth of 24/7 service for two days. (So what happened to this?)

Prepaid only	Smart and Talk&Text	GLOBE	Touch Mobile	Sun Cellular
Call Promo	FLAT CALL RATE P 10 for 3 mins. P15 for 3 mins. up to Sept.19 25/8 CALL RELOAD P115 for 7 days unlimited call bet 11pm to 6 am	CELEBRATE P 10 for 3 mins. dial 235+10 digit Globe cel no. up to Sept. 27	POWER PISO P1 per min. starting third min. TODO TAWAG P 15 for 15 mins of call	24/7 permanent P350 for 30 days call and text unlimited P100 for 7 days call and text unlimited DAYLITE CALL AND TEXT UNLIMITED P100 for 12 days of unlimited call and text calls from 6:01 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. are charged P1 per min. 24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED P150 for 30 days P50 for 7 days
Text Promo	25/8 TEXT RELOAD P30 for 2 days P60 for 4 days of unlimited texting	TEXT NONSTOP P15 for 1 day P25 for 2 days P50 for 5 days of unlimited texting up toSept. 27	TODO TEXT P10 for 1 day text TM10 to 2824 up to Oct. 7	
IDD		IDD Celebrate 20 US cents after the 4th minute dial 12800+countrycode+areacode+phone number Uses Globe 1 card: as low as 10 US cents a min.		IDD top 5 20 US cents as the first min. to US, China, HK, Singapore and Taiwan
SUBSCRIBERS as of end June	20.2 M	11.07 M	2.55 M	1.8 M

What used to be a 24/7 promo is now a permanent offering from Sun. And what's more, the company wants two other new products, Daylite Call and Text Unlimited and IDD Top 5 to become a mainstay, according to Digitel senior vice president William Pamintuan.

Daylite sells P100-cards good for 12 days of unlimited Sun-to-Sun calls from 12 midnight to 6 p.m. and P1 per minute calls from 6:01 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

IDD Top 5 lets Sun Cellular users call five countries—Mainland US, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan—for 20 US cents a minute.

Pamintuan says Sun Cellular packages still offer the best value-for-money even after the two major players mimicked its strategy of winning more subscribers by bringing the price down.

Sun's two new promos are supposed to expire by the end of the month, based on the approval given by the National Telecommunications Commission. The NTC is agreeable to keep on extending the promos.

Wits' end

At the start of the year, Smart

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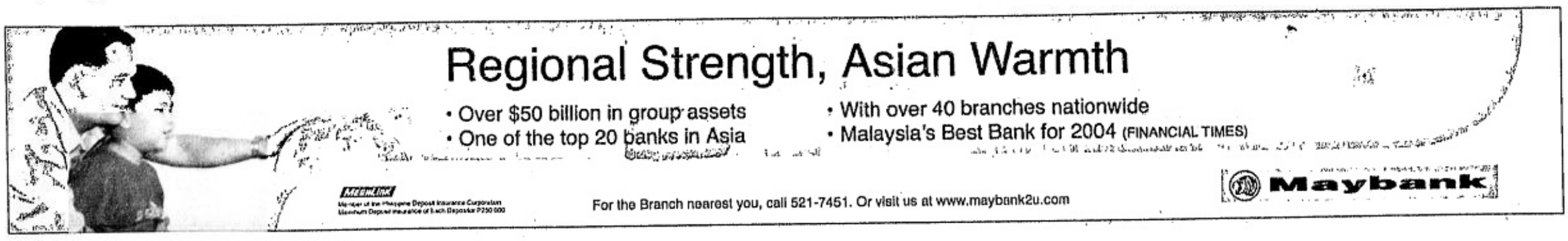

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Developing corporate-level managers

MAPping THE FUTURE
Niceto S. Poblador

MAINTAINING A STEADY SUPply of top-level managers is increasingly becoming a problem in many large business organizations.

Manning top corporate positions with highly qualified men and women has become problematic because lower-level managers who are due for promotion to higher positions are typically task specialists who are technically competent but who are ill-prepared in dealing with system-wide problems and issues.

A good deal of resources are therefore being expended by many companies to prepare their regional and divisional heads and senior staff managers for eventual corporate-level assignments.

The primary objective of executive development programs (EDPs) for senior managers is to develop in them a holistic and integrative view of the management process.

These training programs update future corporate managers on current management practices and expose them to a wide variety of concepts and decision-making tools that are intended to enhance their effectiveness not only in achieving specific corporate objectives, but also in making them more aware and appreciative of the wide-ranging and long-lasting consequences of their actions.

While EDPs are generally effective in pursuing this primary objective, I believe that much more has to be done if future corporate-level executives are to cope effectively with the daunting demands of their responsibilities.

In many cases, EDPs attempt to disabuse middle-level managers of their "silo mentalities" only to lead them into mental cubicles that tend to constrain their analytical capabilities and creative potentials.

They frequently swamp and bedazzle the participants with fancy slogans ("Being Good is not Good Enough"), high-sounding buzz words and catchy phraseologies ("The Transformational Leader") and management fads that come and go (remember MBO, Zero-Base Budgeting, and TQM?) While all these are useful in attracting and sustaining the interest of the participants in these training programs, they do little in preparing them for the fast-paced, information-driven and increasingly complex world of global business.

The substantive content of most EDPs reflect management lore that has been accumulated from the collective experience of practicing managers and insights contributed by management gurus and academics.

While currently accepted management practices and decision-making models have proven to be and may still be quite effective, in today's fast evolving world of business, they tend to have very short shelf lives.

They become less reliable in dealing with newly emergent management problems and issues of the type future corporate managers will be facing.

In designing EDPs for senior-level managers, corporate HRD directors and EDP coordinators of management consulting firms and schools of business should therefore give more importance to the development of cognitive skills and learning abilities, competencies that will enable future corporate managers to come up with their own innovative solutions in dealing with the uniquely different problems they are about to face, rather than rely on approaches that have long outlived their usefulness.

These are the very same competencies that will enable them to continue learning on their own as they grapple with their newfound and more demanding corporate responsibilities.

Achieving this learning objective requires the exposure of the candidates for corporate-level position to the fundamental concepts and ideas that underpin the entire range of management problems and issues.

Regrettably, this is precisely the type of material that most practicing managers, EDP coordinators, and even management academics regard as theoretical balderdash, and "irrelevant" in the arcane world of business where getting immediate results is the name of the game.

In the increasingly complex and dynamic world of global business where knowledge has become the most important economic resource, nothing could be further from the truth.

Unknown to most practicing managers and many management educators, certain common sets of basic concepts lie at the core of such wide-ranging and diverse management issues as organization design, mergers and acquisitions, performance evaluation, and supply network management.

Most of these concepts are drawn from institutional economics and the behavioral sciences, as well as insights from information economics and the evolving science of Complexity. (See my "Complexity and Change," this column, August 29).

By providing future corporate managers with what I call a "gene pool" of such universal and timeless concepts and theoretical constructs, future corporate managers will be endowed with a unifying framework by which to make sense of the increasingly complex and unpredictable world of business that they will soon be facing.

Investing in these competencies among future corporate managers may result in minimal immediate and tangible outcomes, but they will yield tremendous returns to shareholders over the long haul from their continuous learning and sustained innovative instincts.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a knowledge management consultant and former Professor of University of the Philippines. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

MOVEMENTS

Consulting firm appoints manager

TELEDEVELOPMENT Services, Inc. appointed Nathan J. Shapiro as country manager of TeleDevelopment Services Philippines.

TDS president Jon E. Kaplan said the addition of Shapiro signals the next phase of growth for TDS, an international consulting, training, vendor management, staffing and executive recruiting firm that services the call center and BPO industry.

Nathan brings with him a wealth of experience to TDS. He joined Source One Communications in 1996, then moved to the Philippines to start operations of Customer Contact Center as chief operating officer and a joint venture partner.

Prior to joining TDS, Nathan worked as country manager of Sitel Corp. in the Philippines where he was responsible for building operations from the ground up, including facility design, staffing, implementing operational processes and procedures, as well as total profit and loss responsibility.

Hanna joins Hallmark Channel

SPARROWHAWK media Group, which owns the non-US versions of the Hallmark Channel, announced the appointment of Andrew Hanna as Managing Director of Sparrowhawk Media in Asia Pacific.

Hanna will oversee the Hallmark Channel, which currently is distributed to over 21 million subscribers in the region.

Hong-Kong based Hanna was formerly Vice President – Ventures and Business Operations for Walt Disney Television International (WDTV-I), responsible for equity and joint venture interests in Australia and India.

Sparrowhawk Media is the management company formed by David Elstein to acquire the international versions of the Hallmark Channel.

DHL appoints new customer manager

DHL, the world's leading express and logistics company, has announced the appointment of Nurhayati Nadarajan Abdullah as Global and Multinational Customer (GMNC) Manager in the Philippines.

In her new position, Abdullah is responsible for leading customer growth in the Philippines.

Prior to joining DHL Express Philippines, Abdullah was the GMNC Support Group Manager in DHL Malaysia where she managed a group of program managers, logistics coordinators and customer support executives that handle day-to-day proactive tracking management, as well as maintain and retain existing customers through customer loyalty programs, service levels improvements and audits / process improvements.

Abdullah also managed the support group's project management functions, with three project managers and a project executive, that focused on development and response, design and implementation of transportation projects for several local and multinational companies in Malaysia.

With annual revenues of over $24 billion in 2004, DHL is the global market leader of the international express and logistics industry, specialising in providing innovative and customised solutions from a single source.

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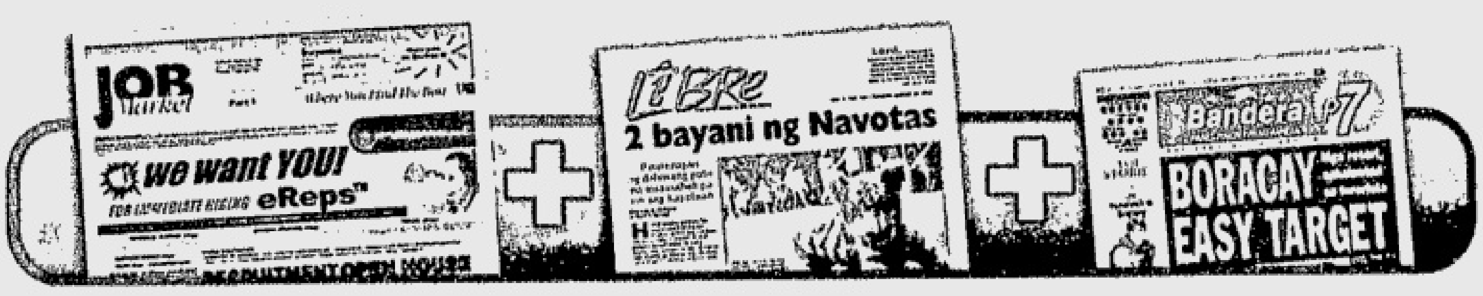

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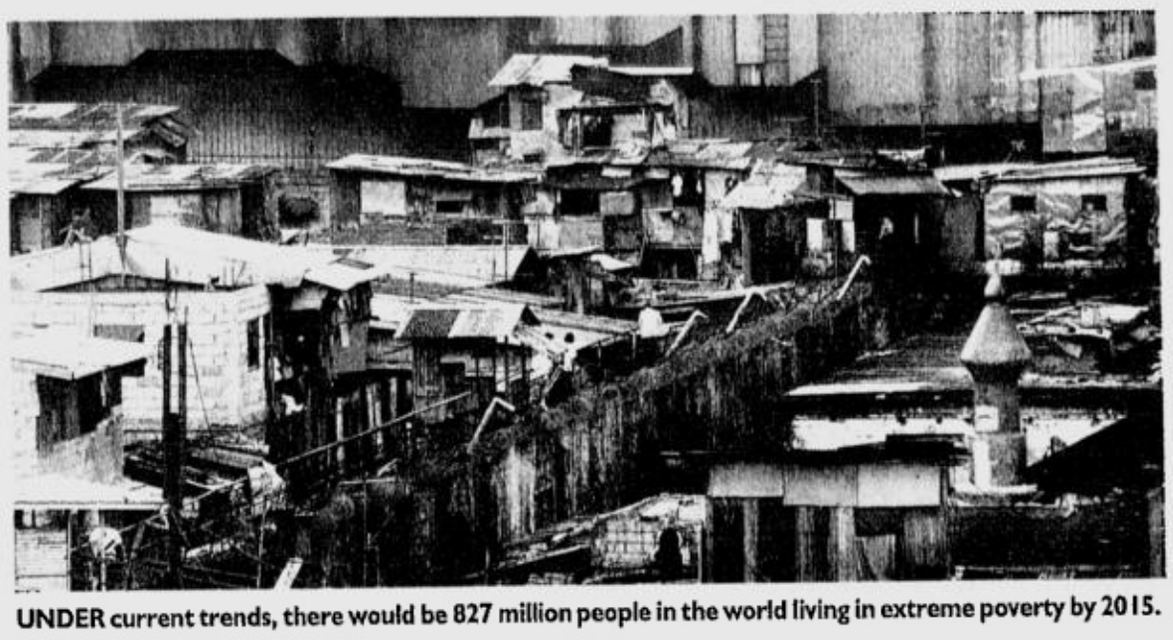
Rich nations—bane to trade of developing countries

By Michelle V. Remo



UNDER current trends, there would be 827 million people in the world living in extreme poverty by 2015.

THE DEBATE CONTINUES whether globalization is good for developing countries or not.

A recent international study shows it is not doing developing countries, like the Philippines, any good.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the arm of the United Nations tasked with monitoring the world's progress in achieving its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), said that under current trade practices, globalization is not being helpful in improving the plight of poor countries.

"The 2005 Human Development Report decries what it calls 'perverse taxation,' under which the world's poorest countries face the highest tariffs in rich countries..." the UNDP said in a statement.

The Human Development Report, a study commissioned by the UNDP, concluded that under current trends, the world would not achieve the MDGs. The MDGs, agreed upon by member-countries in 2000, are a set of objectives that basically aim to eradicate extreme poverty by 2015.

The report showed that under current trends, there would be 827 million people in 2015 living in extreme poverty, or 380 million more than if the internationally agreed target were reached. It also said that another 1.7 billion people would be living on $2 or less a day in ten years.

Manuel Montes, regional program coordinator of the UNDP, said the high tariffs imposed on poor countries by the rich ones do not reflect commitment on the part of the latter to achieve the MDGs.

He cited the case of Cambodia, which receives about $250 million a year in foreign aid but at the same time shells out $200 million annually to pay tariffs slapped by rich countries on its exports.

"In effect, rich countries are not helping the poor ones at all," Montes said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

The Human Development Report showed that the United States slaps an average of 13.6 percent in tariffs to least developed countries, but only imposes 4.5 percent to developing countries and 1.2 percent to high-income economies.

The European Union levies least developed countries an average tariff of 5 percent, compared with the 4.5 percent and 2.5 percent imposed on developing and high-income countries, respectively.

Japan slaps an average tariff of 5 percent and 4.7 percent to least developed and developing countries, respectively, but only requires a measly 1.8-percent average tariff from rich countries.

"Increased aid without fairer trade rules will deliver sub-optimal results. And peace will remain a fragile entity without the prospects for improved human welfare and poverty reduction that can be provided through aid and trade," said Kevin Watkins, lead author of the Human Development Report.

Aside from tariffs, huge subsidies granted by rich countries to their domestic industries greatly hold developing and poor ones uncompetitive. The Human Development Report said that while donor countries spend $1 billion a year in aid to the agriculture sector in developing countries, they however allocate $1 billion a day for domestic subsidies.

"The overall effects of agriculture protectionist measures and subsidies in wealthy countries cost developing countries close to $72 billion a year—an amount equivalent to all official aid flows in 2003," the Human Development Report further stressed.

Montes said the UNDP was set to sound the alarm bells on how the world has become off track to meeting the MDGs by 2015, partly because of unfair trade practices, in the 2005 World Summit held last week in New York City.

Montes said the UNDP would call for rationalization of tariffs, and duty-free and quota-free access for exports from least developed countries in Asia like Cambodia, Zamoa and Mongolia (exports from poor African countries are already granted duty- and quota-free access).

He said the UNDP would likewise call for reduction in tariffs levied against exporters from developing countries like the Philippines, and relaxation of phyto-sanitary requirements for their agriculture exports. The phyto-sanitary requirements, he said, were too strict and impossible for third-world countries to comply with, but do not necessarily have scientific basis.

The UNDP said that correcting the flaws in trade—together with increasing international aid and improving the level of security among countries—were three vital things the world needs to accomplish to still meet the MDGs by 2015.

"This year, 2005, marks a cross road. The world's governments face a choice. One option is to seize the moment and make 2005 the start of a 'decade for development...'

"The other option is to continue on a business as usual basis and make 2005 the year in which the pledge of the Millennium Declaration is broken. This is a choice that will result in the current generation of political leaders going down in history as the leaders that let the MDGs fail on their watch," the UNDP said in the Human Development Report.

Telcos offer call...

From page B2-1

and Globe were at their wits' end, trying to figure out how they could halt Sun Cellular's momentum due to 24/7.

Finally, in March, Touch Mobile launched a 30-day bucket deal. Then its bigger sister Globe quietly offered a similar package for its prepaid subscribers after a few weeks.

But by the first week of April, Globe waved a white flag, saying the strategy did not fit its business plan.

More promos

Eat-all-you-can, according to Globe president Gerardo Ablaza, was unsustainable because it caused too much stress on the network and affected the quality of service even for Globe's high-end customers. Also, he said, the company wasn't sure whether it wanted to keep buffet-eating customers.

Also in March, Smart and Talk 'N Text launched its 25/8 promo, pun apparently intended. To minimize network traffic especially during peak hours, the largest wireless company introduced an operator in the system to queue unlimited calls.

Smart's 25/8 promo went on and off the air as the company tried to improve and come up with a variant once in a while.

Now, 25/8 Call Reload is offering unlimited off-peak calls or from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. for P115 for 7 days. Its Text Reload is selling text-all-you can for P30 for 2 days and P60 for 4 days.

Smart and Talk 'N Text also has a Flat Call Rate of P10 for 3 minutes and P15 for 5 minutes.

Smart would not say whether it would extend the promos scheduled to have expired over the weekend.

Mon Isberto, spokesperson for Smart and parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. said their promos give customers the benefit of the widest coverage and the biggest subscriber network.

As of end-June, Smart and Talk 'N Text already have 20.2 million customers while PLDT has 2.1 million. Globe ended the first half with 11.06 million subscribers plus 2.55 million of Touch Mobile.

Now, Globe probably figured out it has to do something to keep its existing prepaid subscribers loyal as well as that of its other brand Touch Mobile.

Long distance calls

On June 12, Globe introduced its Celebrate promo, which offered a call rate of P5 on the first minute and P2.50 on every succeeding minute and a text rate of 50 cents per message sent. The catch is that a subscriber had to pay a P50 registration fee each for the discounted call and text rate.

Then there is the IDD Celebrate, which offers a 20-US cents a-minute call overseas but only after the fourth minute.

But in August, Globe changed the Celebrate promo into P10 for every three-minute call. The original format was such a hit the company found out it wasn't generating enough revenue.

At the same time, it introduced Txt Nonstop, which offers unlimited text for P15 for a day, P25 for 2 days and P50 for 5 days. Both needed no registration fee.

Touch Mobile supplemented its Power Piso with a P15 for every 15-minute call and a P10 unlimited text for a day. Power Piso, which was introduced in January, charges calls only a peso per minute starting the third minute.

"We are seeing incremental revenues and we are hoping that our promos will generate revenue and attract more subscribers," said Globe wireless business group head Ferdinand Dela Cruz.

Now this is not all. PLDT and Globe's landline arm Innove Communications Inc. are also slugging it out in the fixed-line arena.

PLDT has been offering a P10 per call rate for domestic long distance, which at one point included calls to Smart and Talk 'N Text until Globe brought the issue to the NTC in May.

PLDT agreed to keep the promo strictly within its 2.1 million customers starting this month. By Oct. 12, the P10 per call rate will be a permanent tariff to PLDT customers who would enroll and pay P20 in service fee a month.

Innove, meanwhile, is still offering its NDD Ka Na Magbabayad promo. A new Globelines subscriber need not pay any national long distance charges once he or she avails of the fixed-line service.

Globe's postpaid landline monthly subscription costs between P250 and P700 for residential customers and between P300 and P1,200 for businesses. Rates in provinces are cheaper than in the metropolis. In Metro Manila, the monthly rate for Globe landline is P650.

PLDT and Globe have spiced up landline competition by offering overseas calls for as low as 5 US cents a minute. But the discount is available only to subscribers of their high-speed Internet services.

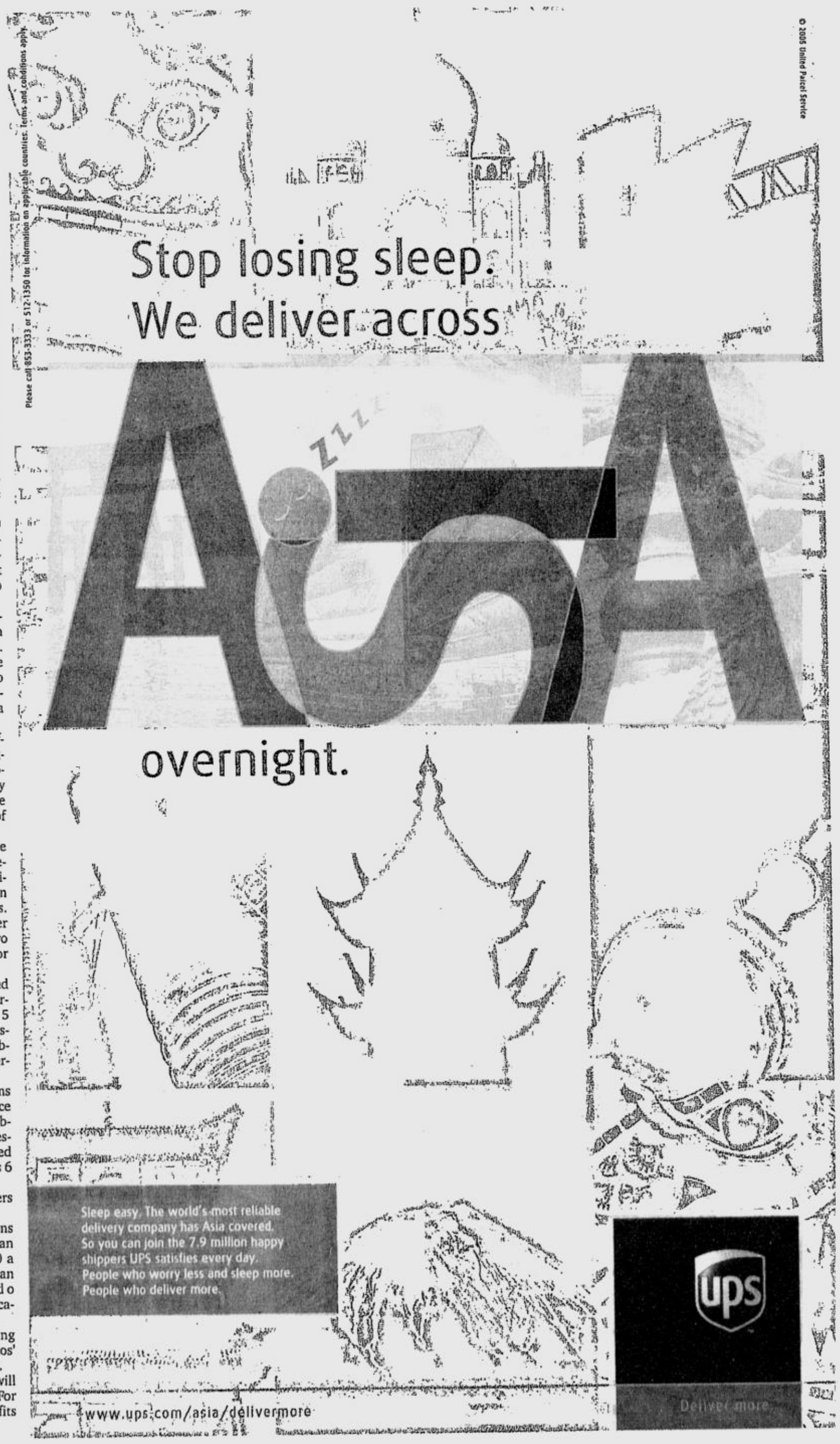
Bayan Telecommunications Inc. said its Sky Internet Voice over Internet Protocol allows subscribers to call more than 70 destinations including the United States and Canada for as low as 6 US cents.

Curiously, even small players have joined the fray.

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. is offering an overseas call rate of P5 to P10 a minute but only to the less than 15,000 subscribers of moribund o nasanExpress Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

Both companies are being linked to the group of Marcos' trade minister Roberto Ongpin.

Whether all these promos will be sustained is another story. For now, let us all enjoy the benefits of competition.



BUSINESS Monday

Why insecure leaders are so bad

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

MANY INSECURE PEOPLE weren't affirmed or empowered during critical phases of life. As a result, they're practically incapable of nurturing the people they lead.

If we were honest with each other, most of us would have to admit that we have at least one or two areas of personal insecurity in our lives. For some, these insecurities might be related to appearance—a big nose, a receding hairline, or a weight issue.

Other people might be insecure about their public speaking skills, cooking talents, technical aptitude, athletic prowess, family background or ability to relate to peers or their social status.

Most well-adjusted people are able to deal with these insecurities in a healthy manner. They look for ways to improve themselves, they accept the reality of the situation and try to make the best of it, or they choose not to let whatever might cause them to feel insecure bother them too much.

Other people let their insecurities rule their lives. We all know people like this. They're often very negative—about themselves and everything else. They're always comparing themselves to other people, and they frequently put others down to make themselves look better. They don't refresh or affirm the people around them; they tend to drain and exhaust them.

These people can be tough to have as co-workers, relatives and friends, but—hear me now—they're terrible as leaders.

In fact, I'd go so far as to say that few things are worse than an insecure leader. That's a bold statement, so let me back it up with a list of characteristics that insecure leaders have in common that make them so ineffective.

1. They want control.

Control is everything to insecure people; the thought of giving it up by empowering others or delegating important responsibilities scares them to death.

2. They fear public failure.

As a result, they will absolutely anything to avoid being embarrassed by doing something stupid in front of others.

3. They avoid risk.

They would rather not try and not know, even if it means missing out on great success and growth.

4. They are closed in their relationships.

They don't open up because they fear rejection.

5. They do not hire 10s.

If they did, they'd run the risk of being shown up. So instead of hiring top-notch people, they surround themselves with mediocrity.

6. They resist change.

Keeping the status quo helps them maintain control, or so they think.

7. They fail to affirm and empower others.

Many insecure people weren't affirmed or empowered during critical phases of life. As a result, they're practically incapable of nurturing the people they lead.

8. They stay in their comfort zone.

To leave it invites risk and change—what more can I say?

9. They view people and situations through their insecurities.

Consequently, what they see never totally matches up with reality, and more often than not, it's completely skewed.

10. They create an environment of insecurity.

This makes the people they lead confused and unsettled because they never know what's going to happen next.

Do you understand why I say few things are worse than an insecure leader? Granted, these people might be able to fake their way through their leadership responsibilities in the short-term, but in the long run, they usually end up hurting themselves, and they always take others down with them.

Now for some good news. If you found yourself identifying with some or all of the characteristics in this list—if you suspect you might qualify as an insecure leader—there is still hope for you.

You've taken the first very large step toward overcoming this debilitating problem—you've recognized that it is a problem in your life.

So do you do next? Here are four suggestions:

1. Seek professional help.

Find a good counselor, and figure out a way to get off the roller coaster of personal insecurity. You owe it to yourself, the people you lead, and the people you love.

2. Identify your areas of insecurity.

The counselor will help you do this, and he or she will also give you practical ways to overcome your insecurities.

3. Allow a trusted friend to help you.

This will mean opening up about your deepest insecurities, but it's always easier to battle this kind of problem with a supportive friend than it is to do it alone.

4. Develop a complementary friend.

If your trusted friend also complements your insecurities and helps make up for some of your weaknesses, you'll be well on your way to overcoming this problem.

It won't happen overnight, but when you finally learn to deal with or even eliminate your personal insecurities, you'll be amazed at the difference it makes in your life and in the lives of the people you lead.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

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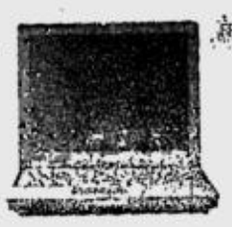

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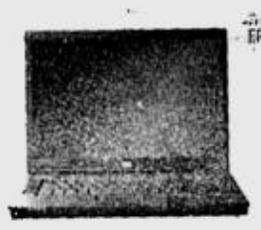

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Promotion runs from September 9 to 30, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5405, Series of 2005.

GLOBE community relations head Jeffrey Tarayao, PLM Brotherhood of Medical Scholars president Dr. Senen Reyes and St. Andrew Church parish priest Fr. Jun Flores.

Firms partner in Nueva Ecija medical mission

GLOBE TELECOM INC., THROUGH ITS corporate social responsibility program Bridging Communities (Globe BridgeCom), recently conducted a medical mission in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, together with United Laboratories, which donated various medicines for this endeavor. The St. Andrew Parish of Pantabangan also partnered with Globe BridgeCom for this project.

More than 300 inhabitants from 11 barangays in Pantabangan, including Aetas, Mangyans and other minorities, were attended to and cared for by volunteer doctors from the Brotherhood of Medical Scholars - Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) and caregivers from St. Augustine School of Nursing. The common ailments found were fever, cough, colds, chest pains and hypertension.

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

Asia's minstrels

light up the Magic Kingdom

Pinoys are colonizing Disneyland with their talent, industry and cheerful disposition

NEARLY all the lead vocal parts in "The Golden Mickeys," a 30-minute show which goes on stage every day at the Storybook Theater in HK Disneyland, are assigned to Filipino performers. Pheona Barranda (in ball gown, foreground), plays one of the hosts.

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON earth have found fertile ground in the happiest place on earth.

Filipinos, working either as talents, bartenders, park attendants or management executives, are among the 5,000 or so cast members helping create magic in the newly opened Hong Kong Disneyland in HK's verdant Lantau Island.

One of the most prominent Pinoy executives is Bobby Garcia, erstwhile resident director of Atlantis Productions and now the show director of the Disney theme park. As such, he is creatively in charge of all live entertainment in the park, from Broadway-style shows such as "The Golden Mickeys," the daily afternoon parades down Main Street, to the general atmosphere of the resort.

Provocative theater

Garcia made his name in the Philippines with provocative theater fare, beginning with productions such as "Oleanna" and "Angels in America" to such smash musicals as "Rent," "Dreamgirls," "Urinetown" and "The Rocky Horror Show." His last credited production before his HK Disneyland stint was "Beauty and the Beast."

"It was an easy transition for me," says Garcia. "Much of the park's entertainment is theatrical, which is my training, plus I used to go to theme parks a lot in the US when I was growing up. This is also a chance to work with brilliant people and create new material."

Unlike other Filipino performers who work in the park on short-term contracts, Garcia is a permanent employee, part of the HK Disneyland management team.

When he came on board, one of the first people he recruited was Rony Fortich, a well-known musical director in Manila's theater and show circuit. Now Fortich is the overall musical director for HK Disneyland.

Second wind

Another Filipino who is thriving in the Magic Kingdom is Wendy Panganiban, a former Ballet Philippines dancer who moved to HK Ballet.

For a number of years, Panganiban was a coryphee (a demi-lead) in the HK Ballet corps, doing the classics such as "Swan Lake," "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker." Along the way, she got married to Amver Calderon, another former BP-turned-HK Ballet dancer.

But Panganiban began sustaining injuries that eventually sidelined her. "I can't dance on pointe anymore," she says. "No more classical ballet for me."

The HK Disneyland auditions proved to be her second wind. She auditioned in January this year, and by June she was rehearsing with the cast of "The Festival of the Lion King," a spectacular, 45-minute Broadway-style show which was making its debut in HK Disneyland. Her

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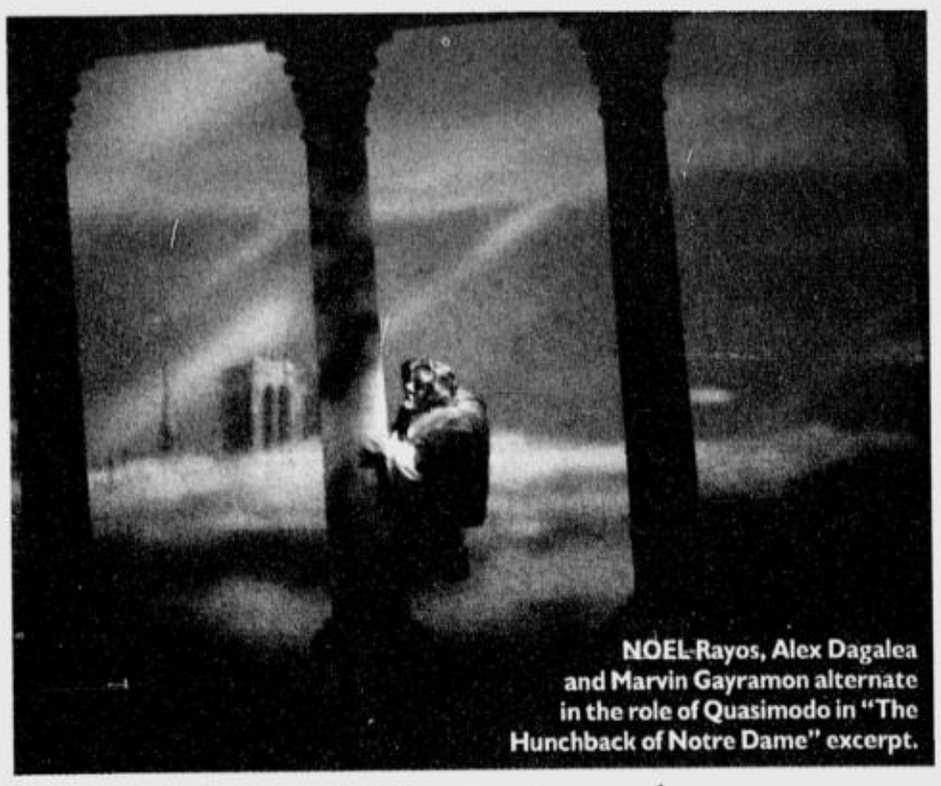
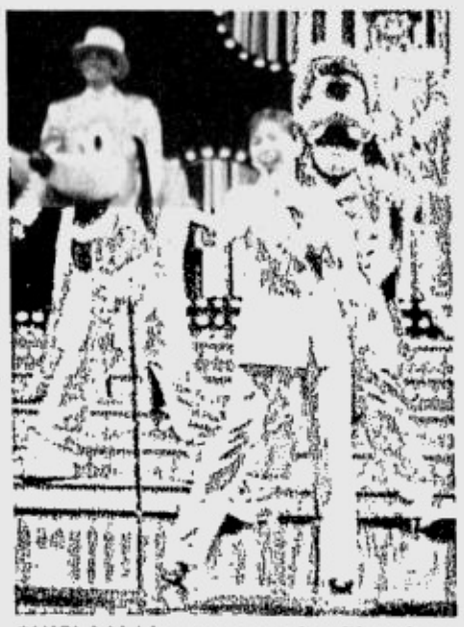


NOEL Rayos, Alex Dagalea and Marvin Gayramon alternate in the role of Quasimodo in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" excerpt.

BOBBY Garcia and Wendy Panganiban

FILMER Flores and his piano bike on Main Street



SHIELA Valderrama, another Pinay host of "The Golden Mickeys"

Asia's minstrels . . .

From page C1

part: the mythical spirit bird that soars across the theater as Simba and Nala sing "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

The show is headlined by African-Americans, but its two dance captains are Filipino: Panganiban herself, and Jaime del Prado (of Trumpets and Repertory Philippines).

There are 20 other Pinoys in the ensemble, mostly products of dance companies in Manila.

Working with Disney has been a very rewarding experience, says Panganiban. "They're very easy to work with, and they take good care of their staff. They always think of my safety first. Everything is computerized in our show, and if the winch [the device connected to her harness] is off by a few seconds, they won't let me fly."

Bigger show

A bigger show in terms of showcasing Filipino talent is "The Golden Mickeys," a 30-minute awards-style pageant that celebrates Disney's most memorable films, songs and characters. It goes onstage several times a day at the Storybook Theater in Fantasyland.

Here, nearly all the major vocal parts are played by Filipino performers. The show emcee is alternately played by Pheona Barranda (previously of New Voice Company), Shiela Valderrama and Ampy Sietereales (both of Repertory Philippines).

RABBI Ganaban as Captain Shang in the "Mulan" suite, a role he shares with Roy Rolloda and Ralion Alonzo

But unless you knew their faces, you wouldn't recognize them, because they do their Chinese spiels with such aplomb that you'd think they were local performers.

In the role of Captain Shang from "Mulan," Rabbi Ganaban alternates with Ralion Alonzo and Roy Rolloda. Ganaban directed "The Blue Room" for NVC before flying to HK.

Alonzo is an outstanding Rep-trained actor/dancer, while Rolloda's extensive theater credits include stints as one-half of "Chang & Eng" in Singapore and lead roles in "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal" and "Kanser (Noli Mi Tangere)."

Quasimodo, meanwhile, of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," is alternately voiced by two former Rep mainstays, Noel Rayos and Alex Dagalea, and a UP-trained classical singer, Marvin Gayramon.

The "Tarzan" suite, which sees a safari-suited girl belting out a song while Tarzan performs acrobatics with a vine, has its vocal piece filled variously by Jinky Llamanzares (who played Gigi in Toronto's "Miss Saigon" and the Acid Queen in "Tommy"), Tex Ordoñez ("Dreamgirls"), and Jing Fegi (Ana Fegi's sister).

In the entire show, only two lead parts are not assigned to a Filipino vocalist: Belle in the "Beauty and the Beast" segment and Sebastian's "Under the Sea" number from "The Little Mermaid."

BARTENDERS Jeffrey Castro, Marvid Abina and Daryl Balares

Inspiring

Then there's the inspiring story of 22-year-old Marah Lou Arcilla, another Ballet Philippines alumna. Arcilla used to work in a Manila call center before she auditioned for HK Disneyland. She was hired as a parade dancer. But when more dancers were needed for "The Golden Mickeys," the casting guys went back to the tapes, and noticed Arcilla.

She was immediately plucked out and included in the show. Apparently Arcilla was a natural standout, because in no time at all she would be appointed dance captain of "The Golden Mickeys" despite her youth and relative inexperience. A true Cinderella story!

Had Arcilla stayed on as a parade dancer, no doubt she would have encountered Filmer Flores on Disneyland's Main Street. Flores used to be a music teacher in UP Diliman. He auditioned for HK Disneyland when its reps announced a search for piano players.

Now Flores is a fixture in the park, the guy who plays ragtime on a 1920s-style piano bike while visitors snap photos of him in his smart vintage vest, suspenders and bowler hat. He played piano rolls while top HK government officials led by Chief Executive Donald Tsang ambled along the street, just inches away from him, during the park's grand opening.

Joy in storytelling

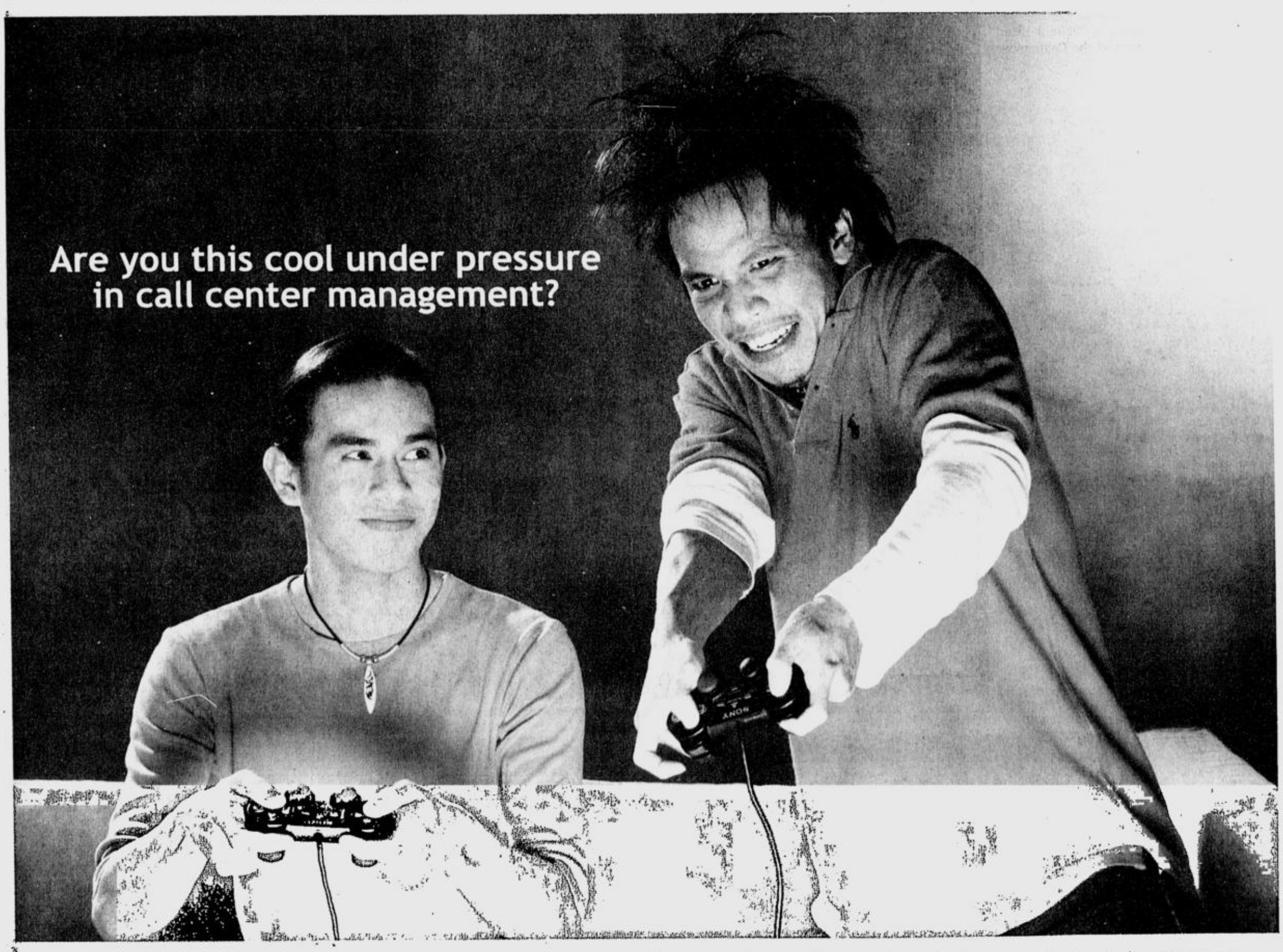
There are many more like them, and not necessarily in the performing arts alone.

Marvid Abina of Daet, Camarines Norte; Jeffrey Castro of Concepcion, Tarlac; and Daryl Balares, a HK-born Pinoy, were three of the bartenders during the "Enchanted Evening" grand opening dinner and ceremonies.

And Tricia Yu, who is half-Filipina, half-Chinese, mans the ticket counter at the Storybook Theater where her compatriots put on a great show every day.

"The exodus of Filipino talents to Disneyland can do nothing but good for us," says Garcia. "It will allow others back home to shine, while we here will go back with new experiences. More than anything, the quality we look for in a Disney cast member is joy in telling a story. And we Filipinos understand this very well."

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



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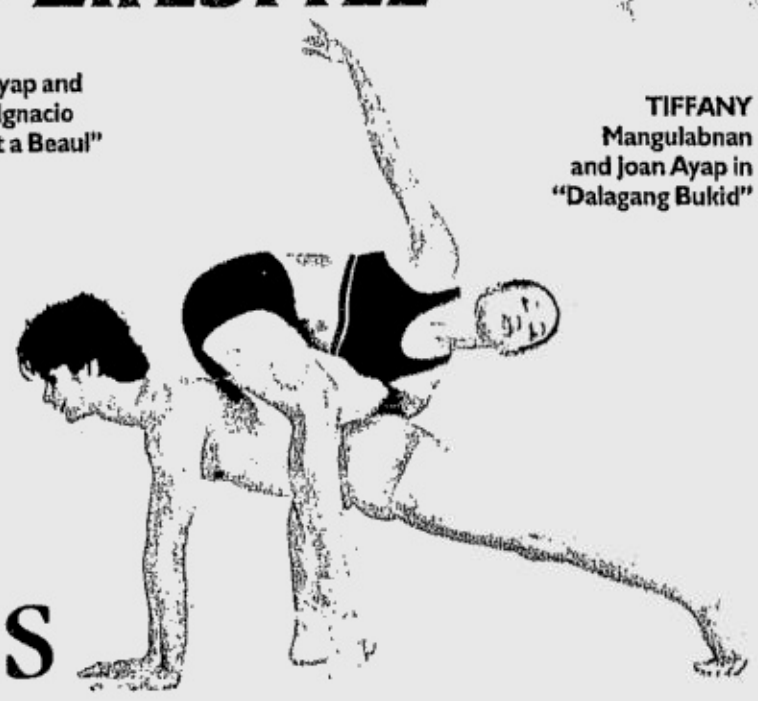
TARA Ferrer in "Vivaldi Sketches"



JOAN Ayap and Sydney Ignacio in "Puirt a Beaul"

TIFFANY Mangulabnan and Joan Ayap in "Dalagang Bukid"

Enrico Labayen's 'Dalagang Bukid' at the CCP

PHILIPPINE BALLET THEATER (PBT) presents the second offering of its 19th season, the world premiere of "Dalagang Bukid," featuring the choreography of internationally acclaimed Fil-Am choreographer Enrico Labayen.

The evening will also feature "Cloth" and "Puirt a Beaul" (Mouth Music), which won for Labayen the coveted Isadora Duncan Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography (USA).

Composed by Leon Ignacio with libretto by Hermogenes Ilagan, "Dalagang Bukid" is the most popular of all the Filipino *zarzuelas* of the 19th century.

"Dalagang Bukid" uses the original score of the *zarzuela* down to its original 78rpm-record sound recording. Conceived in black-and-white and sepia tones and utilizing a cinematic approach to the choreography, Labayen recreates the story in flashbacks and juxtaposition.

The evening opens with the PBT dance artists in the world premiere of Labayen's "Vivaldi Sketches," performed to the music of Antonio Vivaldi's most famous score, "Quattro Stagiozzione" (The Four Seasons). This neo-classical work explores the dancers' vitality, speed, eclecticism and commitment to the classical form.

Also to be shown is "Cloth," a work inspired by "Song of Songs." It was hailed by Dance Magazine as "hypnotic and mesmerizing... a refreshing vision of contemporary dance."

Also to be premiered is "Puirt a Beaul" (Mouth Music), a study of the Celtic movement's uprightness and speed. Both SF Guardian and Marin Independent hailed the work as "an all-around unrelentingly feel-good ballet and a foot-stomping good time... the audience was so overwhelmed that it was given a long standing ovation halfway through the ballet."

CHOREOGRAPHER Enrico Labayen

Katherine Sanchez and Abigail Tan will alternate in the lead role of Angelita, with Ronilo Jaynario playing Cipriano.

"Dalagang Bukid" and other ballets will be shown at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater), Roxas Blvd., on Sept. 22-24 at 8 p.m.; and Sept. 24-25 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at the CCP Box Office and TicketWorld. Call 6328848 or 6342763. Visit www.enricolabayen.com

José Mari Chan in fund-raising concert

WELL-KNOWN singer-composer José Mari Chan will do a concert at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club tonight at 6 to raise funds for Helping a Needy Diocesan Servant Foundation. He will sing his new and old compositions, including songs from his album "A Heart's Journey," which won Album of the Year in Awit Awards 2003. The concert will raise funds for the foundation's projects in 27 parishes in the dioceses of Gumaca, Quezon, Sorsogon and Catanduanes. Call 7241701 or text 0918-5643203.

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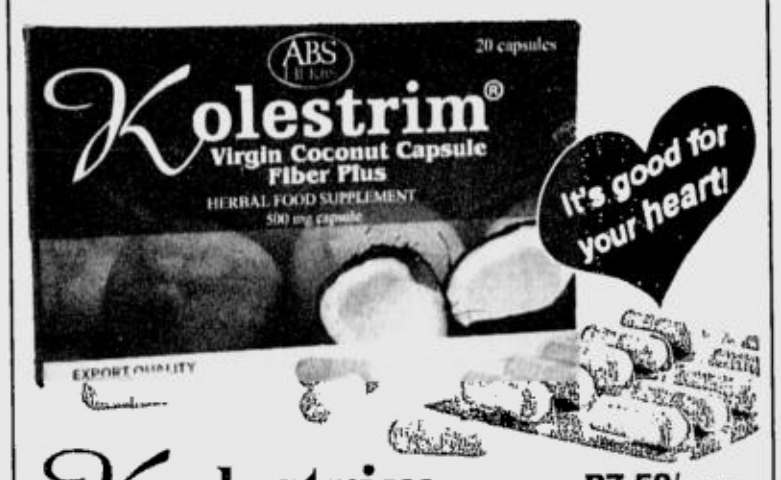

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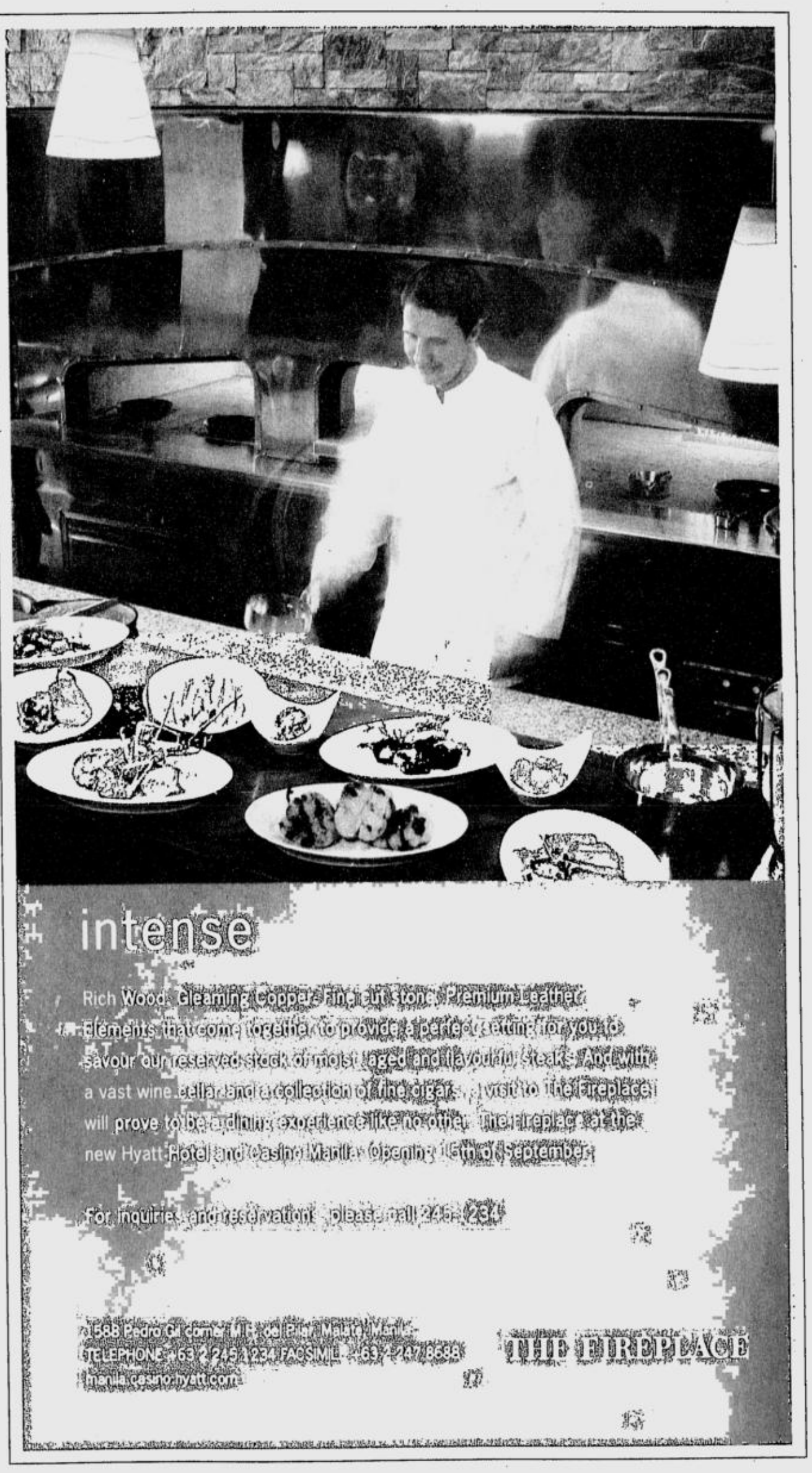

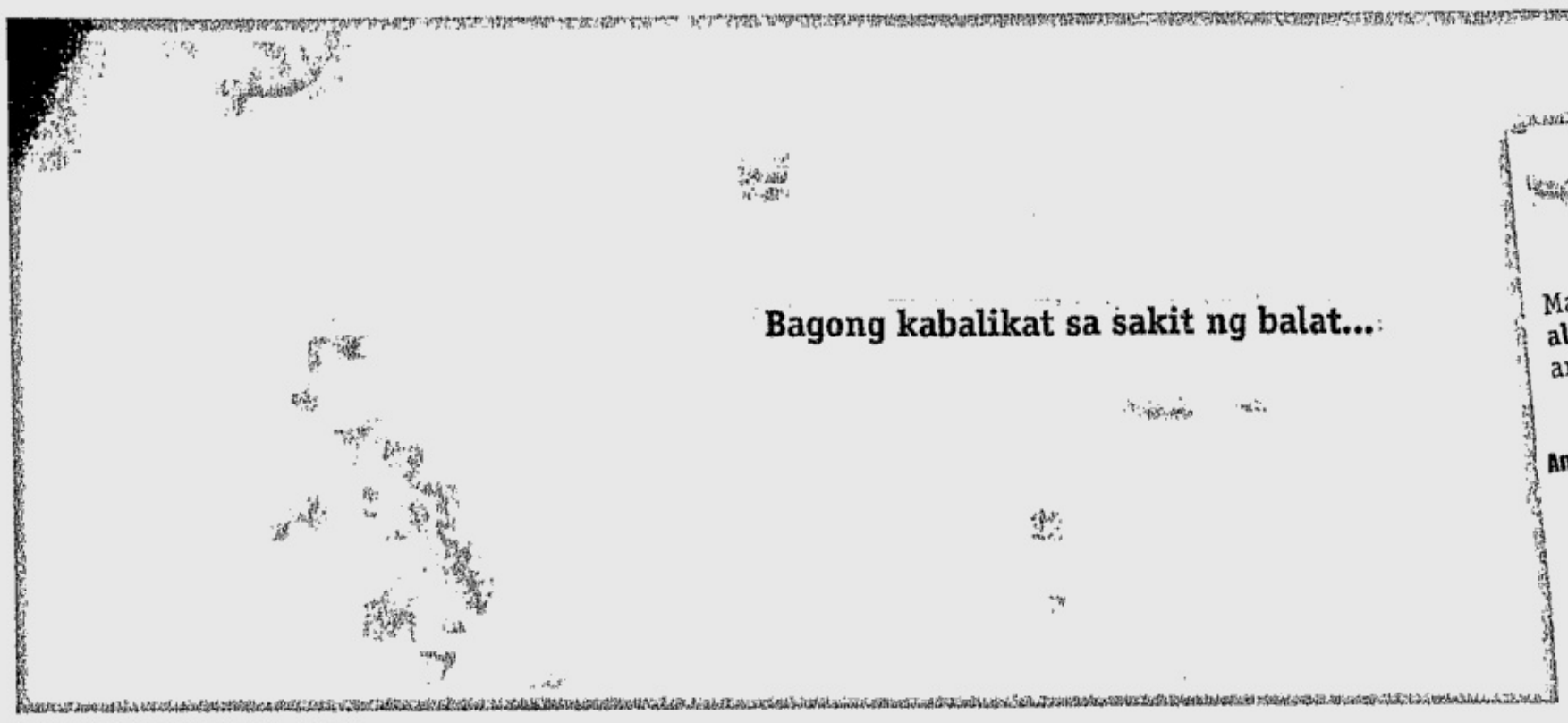

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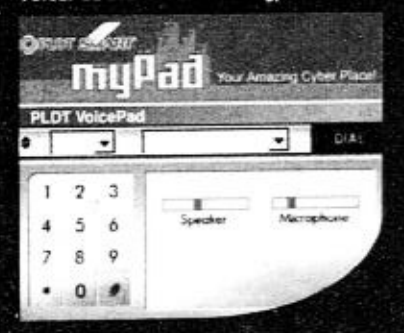

PLDT

FEU restoration gets accolade /E4

"DELUBYO"

Delotavo, the gentle activist

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

NO, HE WAS NOT "screwed-up" during his formative years in Iloilo City, recalls visual artist Antipas (Biboy) Delotavo, now 51. But some of his friends were.

It was the late 1960s, the age of psychedelic art. And budding artist Delotavo was into psychedelic display windows: "I had a modern sensibility, *parang* I looked down on the photographic rendition of figures. So it was the latest from America, backdropped by rock bands."

His rock-musician friends came from broken homes, were into drugs and had dropped out from the city's University of San Agustin (famously known as USA). Delotavo, son of a retired police colonel, came from a "stable, conservative" family, and was able to resist the blandishments of the era.

An early influence was his brother Victor, a well-known layout artist who did illustrations for The Varsitarian, college journal of University of Santo Tomas, and later for Variety, the entertainment magazine of the premartial-law Manila Times.

By the mid-1970s, Biboy was in Manila, taking up Advertising Art at Philippine Women's University. His teacher Lito David took note of his potential, and suggested that he take up the watercolor medium (which he did later, with great success).

But with his "modern sensibility" then, Delotavo was thinking of going into abstract art.

'I don't believe in the clenched-fist type of art'

And then he met social realists Adi Baens Santos and Jess Abrera (later the famous cartoonist of INQUIRER).

The proletarian protest paintings had quite an impact ("*kinilabutan ako*") on Delotavo. It helped that he also had a small farm in Pototan, Iloilo, which he inherited from his parents and kept him in touch with farm workers, some of whom would be the subjects of his paintings.

"I caught a glimpse of the real Filipino," he observes. "He has one foot in the Middle Ages, the other foot in the 21st century."

As a social realist, the artist has a gentle, subtle touch. As he himself says, "I don't believe in the clenched-fist type of art. *Wala sa* temperament *ko*."

After mastering the difficult medium of watercolor, Delotavo turned to oil.

Sixteen new works were recently on view in The Drawing Room in Makati. Contrast and juxtaposition are the hallmarks of Delotavo's art, with "ordinary" men and women contrasted with, and juxtaposed against, elegant settings.

In one painting is a copy of INQUIRER proclaiming "Peso falls; stocks plunge."

"I just like to open a window, a door...," the artist concludes. It's up to the viewers to interpret.

Social Realism still lives

By Constantino C. Tejero

"LUKLUKAN ng Kapangyarihan"

SOCIAL REALISM, LIKE SURREALISM, is not yet a spent force. It may be dormant but it's alive, so long as human society remains unjust.

Like all past movements in art as well as literature, SR may just be experiencing a slowdown or decline through the years (at least, in the Philippines). All it needs is some reviving for it to have a full comeback, as what happened to Neoclassicism and Neoimpressionism, or as what Postmodernism is doing to every other school of style and technique.

This is precisely what Antipas Delotavo was trying to do in "Gayak," 16 pieces in oil on canvas, recently in The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

Delotavo was one of the leading lights in the SR movement during the martial-law years, along with Pablo Baens Santos, Egai Fernandez, Renato Habulan, José Tence Ruiz, Jess Abrera, Neil Doloricon. He says they didn't spring from the Ashcan School through Edades but directly from the sociopolitical climate at that time.

Now in his effort to revive the movement, Delotavo has to resort to a new trick. The world of the common *tao* he depicts is as drab and grim as ever, but now it is foiled by the charm and luxuriance of the *alta sociedad*. This he achieves by portraying the *masa* as seen from the perspective of opulent interiors.

Diorama of suffering

Framed by grille gates, curtained proscenium, ornamented doors, French windows, the figures pass by or drift through like lost souls in austere monochrome of gray, brown or slate, while the marginal objects that belong to the haute-monde of the rich and the nouveau riche are richly rendered in sumptuous colors.

The contrast of forlorn humans and ornate bric-à-brac is acute. The framing is a way of casting out, of isolating the figures, imprisoning them, or driving them off on their desultory way—resulting in what is virtually a recasting of Masaccio's "Expulsion from Eden."

Quite simply, each piece is a portrait of spiritual fatigue juxtaposed with enlivening materiality, of world-weariness side by side with worldliness. It is a theatrical device that's quite effective, and the effect brims with irony.

The viewer, of course, gets the privileged view of this diorama of the long-suffering masses. The supreme irony is, he is put in a compromising position, as it is, unwittingly aligning himself with the perpetrators of their suffering.

The artist has achieved a lot technically in these pieces—in the blending of foreground and background, of muted monochrome and vivid hues, in the merging of portrait and still life, of SR and academic painting. Here marginal imagery is just as significant as the central image.

SOCIAL/D2

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THE DIGITAL photographs show intense shots of flowers and sunsets.

The businessman as art photographer

BUSINESSMAN JOSÉ MARI "Mayie" Delgado will show his first collection of fine-art photographs to the public in "Introspect," on Sept, 29 in the Museum Café, Ayala Museum, Ayala Center, Makati City. The show runs until Oct. 29.

"Among different kinds of photography, fine-art photography is the most introspective," Delgado said. "Your feeling is expressed in the image. It's not just taking a picture, it's internalizing the subject matter and externalizing the image."

His collection includes color photographs of intense and melancholic sunsets taken from places where he traveled, of lone trees in swamps and knolls, of nature-at-close-range like flowers and leaves and raindrops on his car's windshield. His abstracts are a symphony of texture, form and color with wide tonal ranges.

Delgado is chief executive officer of Southern Cross Distribution Inc., a petroleum distribution company.

He said business and photography complement each other. "Business strategies and solutions require creativity, and photography provides me the opportunity to sharpen the creative side of my mind."

"Many people miss the beauty that God has placed in sights or objects that surround us every day," Delgado said, adding that photography seeks to capture that beauty.

Delgado's exhibit consists of digital photos taken in 2004 and 2005 with his Canon D30 and 20D digital SLR cameras.

"Digital photography as opposed to film gives me artistic freedom, convenience and control," he said. "But it is very demanding as it requires technical accuracy and relevant computer knowledge."

"FLOWER Harvest"

Amoncio's bucolic works

"ANI"

LEYTE-BORN FELIX AMONCIO presents his recent works in Galeria Fernando Artes, Casa Susana, Casa Vicente, Alabang Town Center, on Sept. 23.

Inspired by the rural folk of Angono and his hometown of Pinut-an in San Ricardo, Leyte, Amoncio depicts women vendors selling flowers, eggs, mangoes and a host of other produce. The artist captures the mix of idyll and enterprise characteristic of bucolic towns.

Amoncio is self-taught, and his bandana-wearing women, with longish necks against backdrops of foliage or chatting while going about their work, seem inspired by Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Gauguin.

Doctolero at Avellana, Lao at Finale, works on paper at Mag:Net

VISUAL ARTS

OPENING IN AVELLANA ART Gallery today, with the support of Metrobank Foundation, is Ferdinand R. Doctolero's "Mga Bagay at Piling Pwesto," an exhibit of acrylic celebrations. The artist, with a nervous but deliberate energy, fills the paper or canvas with violent streaks of color, sometimes rendering them directly from the tube, to evoke the dynamism of small, transitory objects perceived intensely in space. His yellow flowers become sunbeams, his gardens become the great disturbance of forests. What seem to be particularized visual occasions become poignant devotions to large, abiding themes. Telescopic, obstinate but purposeful, Doctolero's creations capture the quickening and fluctuation of a world that is never still. Avellana Art Gallery is at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

LAO LIAN BEN is exhibiting a suite of small works in Finale Art File, 4/F, LaO Centre, Pasay Road cor Makati Ave., Makati, until Sept. 28. Lao presents paintings on a stark white ground dominated by a single visual element. Suggestive of calligraphy, the icons are circles and ovals and rectangles.

MAG:NET GALLERY at The Loop, ABS-CBN complex, Quezon City, holds an exhibit of collages and drawings curated by Nilo Ilarde. Participating artists are Ronald Achacoso, Lyle Buencamino, Lara de los Reyes, Patricia Eustaquio, Jonathan Olazo, Jason Oliveria, Jucar Raquepo, Yasmin Sison, Maria Taniguchi and Trek Valdizno. Call 4100995.

FINALE ART GALLERY presents Gerardo Tan's "Seippop fo Dleif" until Sept. 27 at 4/L, SM Megamall A. The artist holds a mirror to Pardo de Leon's recent exhibit of oil paintings "Field of Poppies." In his exhibit, Tan reverses Pardo's works to a total afterimage. Call 6342411 or 8132310.

PHYLLIS ZABALLERO literally explores new ground in "The World at My Feet." The exhibit is on Sept. 29-Oct. 13 at Museum Space, 2/F, Grass Wing, Ayala Museum, Greenbelt Park, Makati Ave. cor De la Rosa St. Call 6343261 or 6336687.

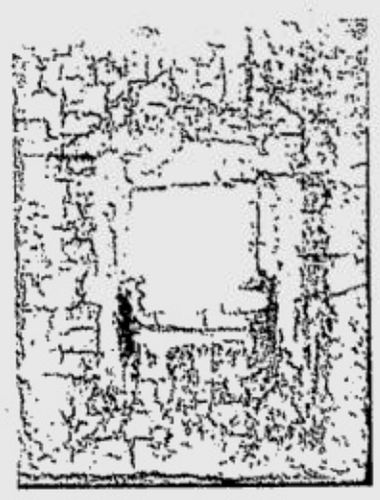
METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila presents "Open Letter" on Oct. 5-Nov. 5. The exhibit features the works of 11 artists reflecting the immigrant experience using a variety of new media. Call 5211517 or 5237855.

THE DRAWING ROOM features Bobby Nuestro's "Stones" until Oct. 8 at Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. The exhibit is a realistic depiction of stones done in abstract composition. Call 8976990 or 8977877.

BART Aguas' "Balina and Child" is featured in "Glaze 'n Craze," until Sept. 30 at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The exhibit features religious and Middle Eastern motifs in 31 pieces of varying sizes. Call 7267164.

"SIMBA," by FERDINAND Doctolero

FEATI University's College of Architecture and Fine Arts recently mounted an exhibit of oil paintings of historic churches, photos of Ivatan houses and architectural plates using indigenous materials by faculty and students. Opening the exhibit are former Feati president Felisberto Reyes, Margaret Segovia, Feati president Jesus Gopez, Feati art consultant Araceli Dans, dean Joy Mananghaya and Fine Arts department head Janice Young.



"BUDDHIST Television," by Lao Lian Ben

Book on the nude to be launched

THE COFFEE-TABLE BOOK, "A Treasury of Philippine Nudes," will be launched on Sept. 22, 6 p.m., in Passion Art Gallery along Metro Walk, Tektite Road, Pasig City.

The 120-page book, part of a series of art books published by Carlos Arellano, features over 50 Filipino artists from the Masters to National Artists and contemporary and emerging artists, with over 130 full-color plates of their works.

Culled from the personal collection of Arellano, the book is focused on nudes. The selection is complemented by vintage art pieces from institutional and individual collectors, such as those from the collection of the family of the late Vicente Lopez.

Authored by art critic Gino Dormiendo, "A Treasury of Philippine Nudes" is envisioned to fill in the need for a book on the subject, for young and mature readers alike.

The book explores the ennobling ways artists delineate the subject of the female figure, as depicted in choice works by National Artists Napoleon Abueva, Fernando Amorsolo and HR Ocampo; as well as Bencab, Rafael Cusi, Gig de Pio, Larry Memije (whose "Lady in the Flower" is reproduced on the front jacket), Rafael Pacheco, Lydia Velasco, Andi Cubi; and Nib Badajos, Eileen Escueta, Bernard Vista and Joel Bartolome.

Each section is introduced by an essay by the author, who also prepared the artist profiles. The book's editorial consultant is poet-fictionist-columnist Alfred Yuson, who wrote the introduction, "The Poetry of the Nude."

The book is designed by Deo Arellano, managing director of Digital Delerium Studios. He also photographed all the works in the book.

"A Treasury of Philippine Nudes" is available in Passion Art Gallery at SM Megamall and other art venues.

Artists paint the sound of music

"MUSIKA ni Juan," by Jerry Morada

GALERIE JOAQUIN, WITH SINAGTALA Foundation, presents "Cello & Other Music Paintings," opening on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m.

The exhibit features works by Jerry Morada, Bernard Vista, Gino Tioseco, and Vincent de Pio and Aileen Lanuza.

They will be joined by Tam Austria, Andi Cubi, Gig de Pio, Lydia Velasco, Dominic Rubio, Edwin Tres Reyes, Bayani Ray Acala and Rellie Liwag.

Also featured are works by the Guevarra Group of artists. The exhibit will be held in honor of Vicente Lopez Jr.

Morada has two 36" x 48" works, showing his original Filipiniana interpretations in a surrealistic manner.

De Pio has created several 36" x 24" expressionist works, almost in black-and-white tones, with gold, amber and mahogany highlights.

Acala, a musician in his own right, has three 30" x 40" works and several 24" x 30" works of women playing various musical instruments.

Galerie Joaquin is at 371 P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Call 7239253 or 7239418. E-mail galerie_joaquin@yahoo.com or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com

"CELLO" 4, by Vincent de Pio

Social Realism . . .

From page D1

Philosophy and craft

Several times winner of the Art Association of the Philippines competition, Jurors' Choice of the Philip Morris Asean Art Awards, and Hall of Fame of the Kulay sa Tubig invitational contest, Delotavo took up Advertising Art in Philippine Women's University. He received the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1990.

His all-time favorite is Spanish realist Diego Velásquez, whose complex sense of composition and perspective is obviously an influence in this exhibit. But he also loves Degas, Vermeer, Matisse, Francis Bacon, and, being at one time an abstractionist, Rothko and Franz Kline.

Though SR inexplicably reached an impasse in the late 1980s, his name has attained some venerability. Now in his early 50s, the man may be considered a master without shyness or apology.

His is an art that clearly possesses both craft and philosophy, where other artists triumph in one but fail in the other. It's no surprise then that, if it's in the hand of such a master artist, the reworking of a seemingly dead art movement as Social Realism can work, as can be seen in this exhibit.

What is old is, indeed, made new. And the jaded viewer can't help but gush with a sense of rediscovery: It's alive!

"NAKED Glory"

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THE PHILIPPINE FURNITURE INDUSTRY:
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A 37-PERCENT GROWTH IN EXPORT sales for the 1st quarter of 2005 viz the same period in 2004. The 4th highest export sales earner across revenue streams during the 1st quarter of 2005. Continued international recognition for excellence in product design and craftsmanship as well as creativity and innovation in the application of materials.

Indeed, the Philippine furniture industry has come a long way from its formal craft roots in the 16th century when cabinetmakers were brought in through the Galleon Trade and taught Filipino craftsmen the art of masonry, intricate carvings and adornment of doors and other church furnishings. From these humble beginnings, the industry has grown to be the vibrant contributor to the economy that it is. And while the country is no longer ranked number one in the Asean region in terms of furniture export trade, it continues to make an impact in this highly competitive market. Shunning our rivals' practice of mass-producing furniture, the country has, instead, gone into niche marketing by selling premium quality furniture to the world's middle to high-end furniture markets.

Our realities

DTI notes that there are 15,000 establishments engaged in the industry with about 2,500 establishments directly involved in the manufacture of furniture. Ninety-eight percent are MSMEs, with the bulk in Metro Manila, Pampanga and Cebu. The industry employs about 800,000 workers with an additional 1 million in the sub-contracting network. It also contributes about $600 million in sales to the economy. This does not include the taxes and fees that the companies and the 1.8 million workers bring into the coffers of government through taxes. Growth was admittedly sluggish starting the late 1990s, reaching a high of $381.39 million in 2000 and dropping to a low of $297 million in 2001 due to the 9/11 event. Recovery has been slow but steady, despite hiccups such as the Asian health crisis in 2003.

Our prospects and challenges

The reality of an increasingly global market is not lost on the industry. Not only is competition from other furniture producing countries getting stiff, but the industry is also experiencing problems with the flow of its raw materials, as well as a drain in its competency skill base. Despite these, prospects for our industry remain good with a growing niche market worldwide; our manufacturers' reputation for having a strong orientation towards the customer; and an abundance of marketing platforms here and overseas.

Furniture Week

Effectively responding to these challenges will require collective and concerted action based on a heightened awareness and understanding of the industry and its issues. To position the industry firmly into the consciousness of its various publics, the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) worked for the declaration of a national observance of Furniture Week and in 2000 achieved this through PD No. 368, "Declaring the Third Week of September of Each Year as Furniture Week" to "institute consistent and continuous awareness (about the industry) and assurance among all players of the industry considering the effects of globalization and the need to be more competitive".

Furniture Week 2005 falls on the week of Sep. 18 to 24 and CFIP lined up the following activities: a "Symposium of Global Competitiveness through Leadership" on Sep. 22 at the Pan Pacific Hotel; the Annual Meeting of the Presidents of CFIP on Sep. 23; and a Study Visit to Furniture Companies in Cebu for Luzon-based companies on Sep. 26 and 27. The Furniture Week 2005 celebration is being organized by CFIP with the support of the Private Enterprise Accelerating Resource Linkage Project (PEARL2), 3M Philippines and ADD Research Paints and Chemicals Inc.

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THE LOVE Teams in "Taming of The Shrew": Hans Eckstein as Lucentio, Topper Fabregas as Bianca, PJ Rebullida as Katherine, Nic Manahan as Petrucchio

'Taming of the Shrew' extended

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES' production of the Shakespeare comedy "The Taming of the Shrew" will have a special performance at Rep's Globe Theatre at Onstage, Greenbelt 1 on Sept. 24, 8 p.m. This is in response to public requests to extend the run. Rep subscribers can use their play stubs for this date.

The version uses an all-male cast in keeping with Shakespeare's 16th-century style of production. Director Bart Guingona directs Rep regulars Niccolo Manahan, Joel Trinidad, Bonggoy Manahan, Oliver Usison, Arnel Carrion, Jejie Esguerra, Topper Villegas and PJ Rebullida.

Other cast members include Hans Eckstein, Dingdong Rosales, Jack Salud and Micah Muñoz.

Stage design is by Geny Baluyot while costume design is by Edgar San Diego.

"Taming of the Shrew" has the support of the City of Makati, Globe Telecom, Avon, the Ayala Cinemas, in cooperation with the National Sports Grill and the Expo Exchange, through the special participation of ClickTheCity.com, The Daily Tribune, Jam 88.3, Crossover 105.1, Joey 92.3 Rhythms, NU 107, and Lane Moving and Storage.

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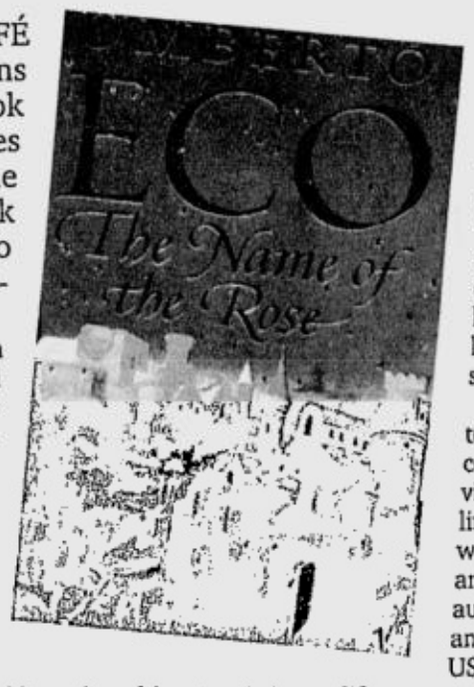
September's power reads

THE JAVA MAN CAFÉ will hold discussions on the PowerBook Club's featured titles for the month. The first eight non-book club members to sign up get the featured book for free.



Published in Italian in 1980, Umberto Eco's "Il Nome della Rosa" or "The Name of the Rose" can stand as a murder mystery, yet the novel can also be more accurately seen as a questioning of "truth" from theological, philosophical, scholarly and historical perspectives.

Centering on 50-year-old monk and investigator William of Baskerville, who embarks on solving a series of strange deaths at a Benedictine monastery, the story offers detailed accounts of the histories of various sects, plus scholarly debates on an array of intriguing topics.

Enjoy a thorough discussion of "The Name of the Rose" on Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Wicked fairytale stepmothers would seem angelic compared to the monster under which Adeline Yen Mah suffered. The author's memoir, "Falling Leaves," is a chronicle of nonstop emotional abuse from her wealthy father and his beautiful but cruel second wife.

Chinese proverbs scattered throughout the text convey the traditional view that prompted Adeline's subservience, but with the encouragement and love of an aunt, the author eventually escaped and made her way to the US to start a new, hopefully better life.

Catch the discussion of Adeline Yen Mah's "Falling Leaves" on Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m.

PowerBooks has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428 to 29); Megamall (6352898 to 99); Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63); Glorietta (7527075); Shangri-La (6380023/25); and Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334/5243448).

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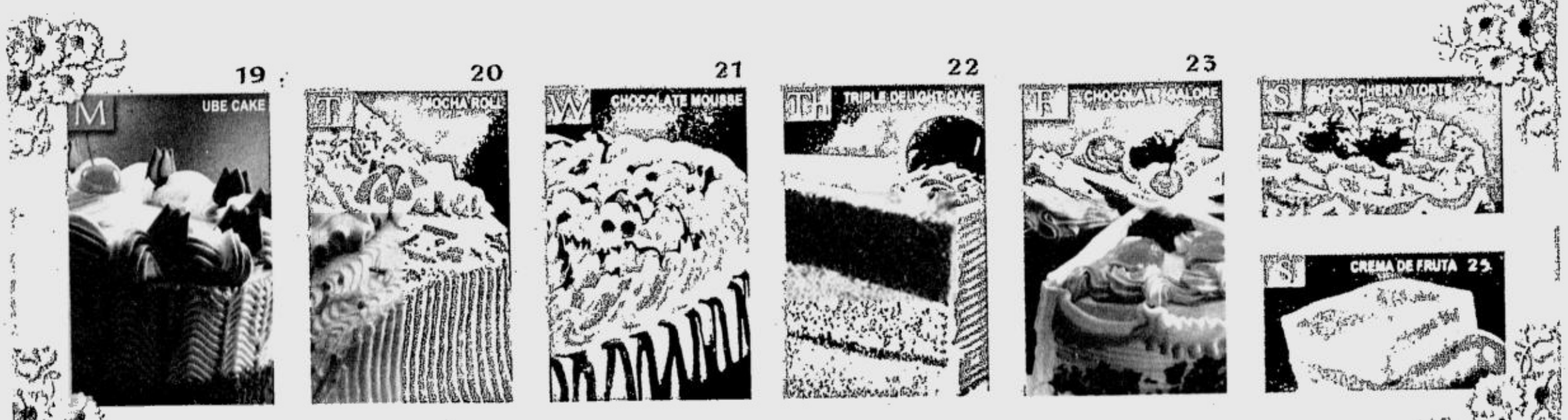

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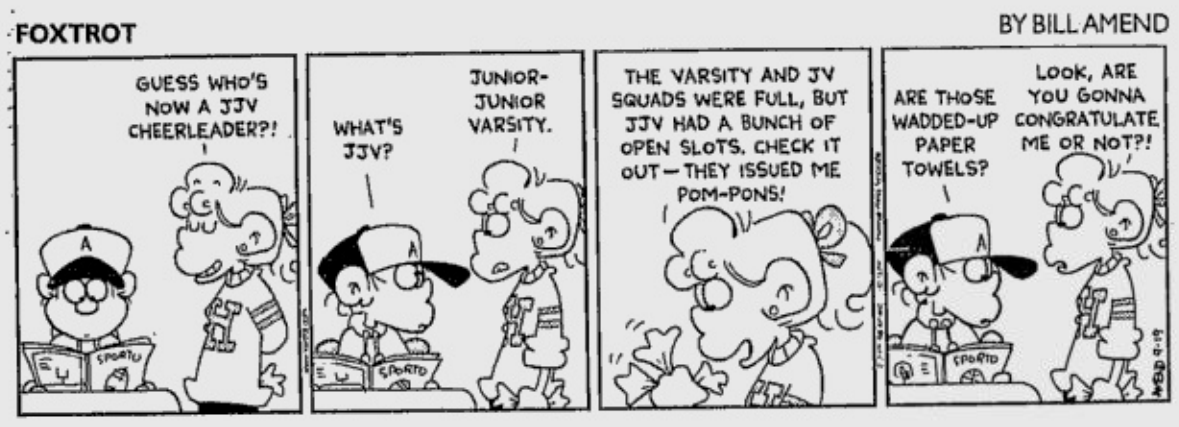

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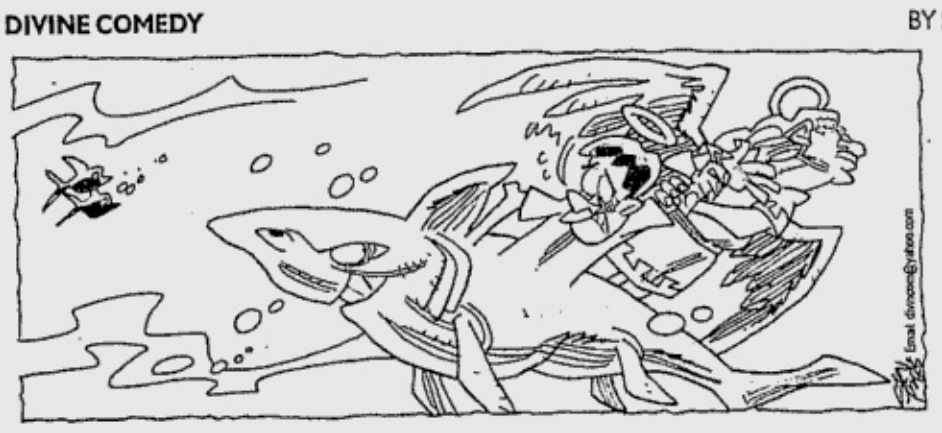


WHEN HIS SOUL SEPARATED HIS BODY TO ASCEND TO HEAVEN, PEPE REALIZED THAT HE WAS EATEN BY A MAKO SHARK

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: No matter what your beginnings in life, you know how to make it on your own. You appreciate beautiful things, and you are aware of your own appearance. Many admire your style and grace: You're often a trend-setter. You have much to look forward to. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life! **Birthdate of:** "Mama" Cass Elliott, singer; Trisha Yearwood, singer/actress; Jeremy Irons, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't be surprised if you find that you have an increasing desire in the next month to talk to others. You're excited about something and you need to share the news!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): During the next six weeks, your ability to tackle all kinds of mental work is sharpened. Communications with co-workers will improve. (This is good.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): More and more, you want to get your ideas out there into the world. You have a growing need to express yourself! (Not only that, you want respect for your ideas.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with parents and family members will become more significant in the next few weeks. Privately, memories of your childhood might surface now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Fasten your seat belt. Life will get busier. All kinds of activities, both intellectual and physical, keep you on the go! This is not the time to stay at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're starting to come up with some good moneymaking ideas. (Actually, you're giving more and more thought to what you value in life.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your need to talk to others will be quite strong in the next four weeks. You also have a strong urge to get out and travel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In the next few weeks, moments of introspection help you define what you want to achieve now. Many opportunities will come your way in the next year. Are you ready for them?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Take some time in the next few weeks to think about your goals and objectives in life. If you don't know where you're going, it doesn't matter what road you take.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conversations with parents and bosses are significant now. In the next few weeks, don't be afraid to speak up. Show respect; but state your views.

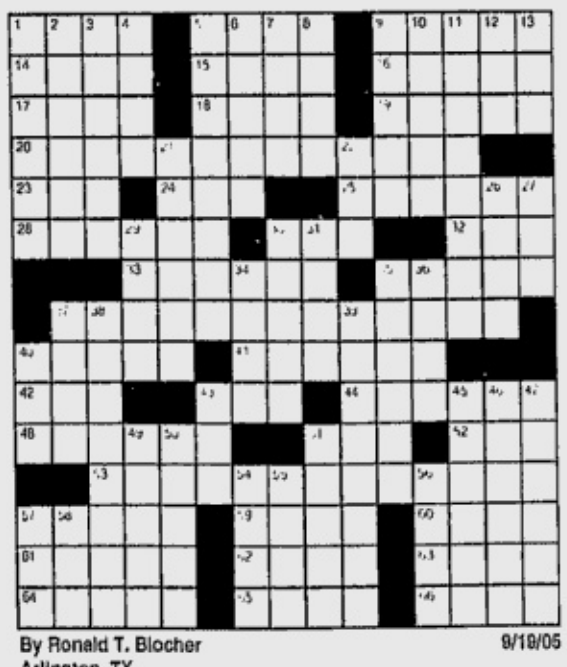
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The month ahead is a wonderful time for travel and increased education or training of any kind. You're eager to learn something new. You're also open to new ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Research and work related to insurance matters, inheritances, wills, estates, debt and taxes will go well in the next few weeks. You're prepared to roll up your sleeves and dig in. Great!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Equivalent exchange
5 Ominous
9 Suspicious
14 Mah-jongg piece
15 Trademark DOS
16 Publication
17 Org. of court players
18 Distribute
19 Trample
20 Enchanting jewelry?
23 Geometric fig.
24 U.S. dance grp.
25 Change place cards
28 At the location
30 Peer Gynt's mother
32 Fish eggs
33 Narrate
35 Polish
37 Cultural jewelry?
40 Chestnut-and-white horses
41 Temperance crusader Carry
42 2002 British Open winner
43 Showoff performer
44 Pushed gently
48 Winged insect
51 Omelet item
52 Harem room
53 Deadly jewelry?
57 In the midst of
59 Kind of dancer
60 Bit of a frolic
61 Cosmetic item
62 Film spool
63 Perry's creator
64 Bearer
65 Besides
66 Hip ending?

DOWN
1 Wall covering
2 Dusty Springfield hit, "__ and Hopin'"
3 Clerical tables
4 Anjou or Bosc
5 Thickhead
6 Like a couch potato
7 Dove or Rudner
8 Corp. big shot
9 Strong, cotton thread
10 Adlai's running mate
11 Arcane
12 Sailor's drink
13 Informal assent
21 British moms
22 Afore
26 First-class
27 Start of a hole
29 Persia, today
30 Peppard series, with "The"
31 Offshoot group
34 Tolstoy novel, "__ Karenina"
35 Shed, as skin
36 Cluster of bananas
37 Warsaw native
38 Removed gently
39 Old or Nat followers
40 Dixie soldier
43 Skirt border
45 Mini-racer
46 Channel swimmer Gertrude
47 Closer to black
49 Barest hint
50 Type of beer
51 Perimeters
54 Grimm character
55 Christmastime song
56 Bullight bravos
57 Knack
58 Bossy comment?



By Ronald T. Blocher
Arlington, TX
9/19/05

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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Oh, Oprah

SINCE HER START AT A TINY Nashville radio station, Oprah Winfrey has become a media mogul, a generous philanthropist, an advocate for abused children, an actress and one of the richest women in the world. Through fame and fortune, she has kept in touch with her roots and maintained a positive, spiritual and down-to-earth approach to life.

In "The World According to Oprah," Ken Lawrence captures the talented and multifaceted woman in her own words, as she expresses the ideas and beliefs that made her who she is today. Available at National Book Store.

New book on martial law

ON SEPT. 21, "DOWN from the Hill: Ateneo de Manila in the First 10 Years Under Martial Law, 1972-1982," edited by Cristina Montiel and Susan Evangelista, will be launched 4-6 p.m., at the Social Development Complex AVR, MMU campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Former President Corazon C. Aquino is guest speaker.

Published by Ateneo de Manila University Press, the book gathers essays, vignettes and documents that shed light and reflect on the movements and ideas, conflicts and unities prevailing in Ateneo at the time.

Written by Stephen Henry S. Totanes, Maria Elissa Jayme-Lao, Ma. Elizabeth J. Macapagal, Meynardo P. Mendoza, Susan Evangelista, José J. Magadia, and Benjamin T. Tolosa Jr., the chapters chronicle the beginnings of student activism; rise of student organizations; growth of publications amid censorship; and initiatives and responses of faculty, administrators, social development professionals and the Jesuit community vis-á-vis the raging issues of the times in academe, the Church and the larger society.

The last essay links the deepening social involvement of Ateneo of the '70s to the political struggles of the early '80s.

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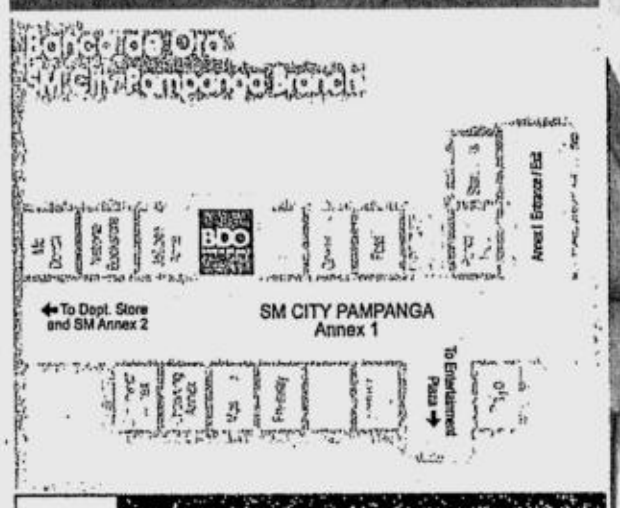

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FEU campus wins Unesco award

DESIGNED by National Artist for Architecture Pablo Antonio in 1939, the Art Deco Nicanor Reyes Hall is the FEU architectural icon today.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

The school is a touch of architectural class in a city blighted by pollution and poor public planning

THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) included the restored Far Eastern University campus in Manila among the recipients of the prestigious Unesco 2005 Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards.

Previous Philippine winners were the Gota de Leche Building in Sampaloc, Manila, (2003) and the Nielsen Tower, now Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati (1999).

Ivan ManDy, a professional streetwalker who organizes heritage walks in central Manila, tells the FEU story:

"The Far Eastern University, located in Manila's chaotic and overcrowded University Belt, is the proverbial rose in a sea of thorns.

"Years of neglect... led to the [campus] falling into hard times, hardly a fit place to inspire the minds of our country's future [leaders]. But then the FEU administration decided... to roll up its sleeves and do something.

"In one fell swoop, [the campus] morphed from an uninviting, graffiti-infested, makeshift patchwork of classrooms, food-areas and dingy business stalls to [restore itself to] the gleaming Art Deco complex worthy of educating the best minds of the country.

"This is the FEU campus today, a touch of architectural class in a city that seems to have forgotten how beautiful she once was.

"That the university... is in the midst of one of the most high-density and polluted districts of the city did not deter FEU from battling urban blight head on.

"But what particularly makes the FEU campus noteworthy is that it proved to many how old buildings do not have to mean derelict and unfashionable. In fact they [the restored buildings] are hip and cool..."

"Buildings in the FEU campus were constructed between 1930-1950; they had been mostly designed by National Artist Pablo Antonio. Felipe Mendoza designed the other campus structures, notably the chapel.

"All of campus structures were restored to their original appearance. All new buildings were designed in a contemporary style compatible with the old. Without resorting to architectural mimicry of the heritage architecture, the new blended perfectly with the old.

Restoration

"Lourdes Reyes Montinola, chair of FEU, led the restoration project. Pablo Antonio Jr. did the architectural works and conservation on work originally done by his father. Conservation consultant was Augusto Villalón.

"Unknown and unappreciated to many Manileños, the campus boasts of the largest collection of 1930s Art Deco period buildings that survive in Manila, or even in the country.

"If you are lucky enough to get (or sneak) in, as I did in 2001 when I joined a walking tour of the campus, you will find even more surprises.

"A well-proportioned quadrangle [designed by pioneer landscape architect Dolly Q. Pérez] flanked by lush greens is a breather from the jeepney fumes outside."

Mature Philippine hardwood trees planted in the late 1930s by FEU founder Dr. Nicanor Reyes himself are not only a living link to the university's illustrious past but also valuable oxygen regenerators much needed in polluted downtown Manila.

Unknown to outsiders (and possibly to students and alumni), the university art collection is outstanding. Paintings by National Artist Carlos Francisco line the university chapel walls. Murals in the Art Deco style [by Saulog and Manansala] encourage the university youth to empower themselves to build a Filipino nation.

Other significant works of campus art are a collection of outdoor bronze sculptures by Saprid in the quadrangle and wood bas reliefs by the noted Italian sculptor Monti. Paintings by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo hang in the Administration Building.

The FEU Auditorium, the pre-Cultural Center focus of all cultural activities in Manila, has not only been restored to its original grandeur, it has been expanded and updated with the latest in theater equipment. The vastly improved auditorium once again is the venue of Manila's important cultural events.

Significant

Unesco cites the project "...in the context of its immediate neighborhood, the project has had a significant effect on raising historic awareness in the community. The project maintained a commendable balance between preserving original building design and use while accommodating the university's modern needs."

FEU's restoration caused an upgrading on its surrounding neighborhood. Inspired by the new look of the campus, its neighbors started a revitalization program, first volunteering to repaint their façades, then improving the sidewalks in front of their properties.

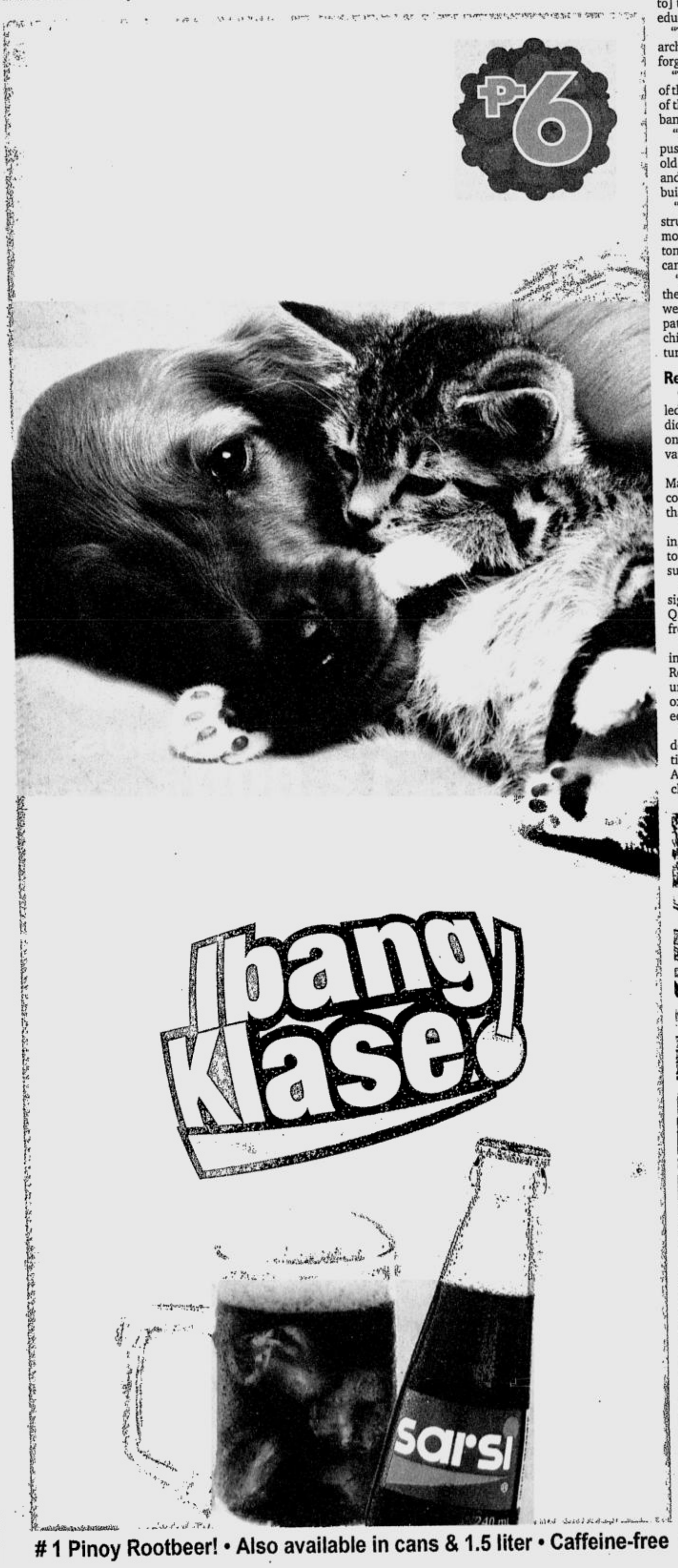
Next they formed into a neighborhood building owners association that asked the City of Manila to participate in the revitalization program by repaving the sidewalks, improving street lighting, and providing better security. Inspired (or maybe shamed) by the initiative taken by private property owners, the city government agreed.

The FEU-managed Nicanor Reyes (formerly Morayta) Street revitalization project is the first public-private cooperation in the Philippines for urban regeneration that is based on conservation, an example that citizens can make the government respond to their needs rather than simply wait for government handouts.

FEU is one of the few Philippine universities that squarely face the future with feet anchored on a long tradition of excellence. In FEU's case, the excellence is illustrated in the university's landmark architecture, which has renewed Tamaraw pride among the studentry and alumni.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com.

THE FEU quadrangle, designed by landscape architect Dolly Perez around mature hardwood trees planted by university founder Dr. Nicanor Reyes himself, is an unexpected oasis of green in polluted central Manila.



UST forum tackles sculptural heritage

THE DISMAL CONDITION OF MANY public sculptures is discussed in the forum, "Scavenging for the Figures Past: A Look in the State of Public Sculptures in the Philippines," on Sept. 23, 2-4 p.m., at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Speakers include sculptor Ramon Orlina, architect Paulo Alcazaren, writer Manuel L. Quezon III, and Martin Galan of the House of Precasts.

The forum is in connection with the exhibition, "Francesco Riccardo Monti in the Philippines," about the late Italian expatriate sculptor who created the well-known sculptures at the Metropolitan Theater, UST Main Building, and Sto. Domingo Church.

The forum is organized by the Art Studies 282 class of the College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman and the UST Museum. The show runs until Sept. 30. Call 7811815.

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A28
One Desperate Housewife wins an Emmy

■ BUSINESS / B1
Gov't posts budget surplus of P1.75B

■ ACROSS / A15
Fire hits ferry; 620 passengers out of harm's way

■ LIFESTYLE / C2
Global Dance 2005 draws thousands

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA seeks political truce; foes set big Sept. 21 march

By Christine O. Avendaño and Tarra V. Quismundo

FRESH FROM HER TRIP TO the United States, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked the people yesterday not to be preoccupied with too

GMA SEEKS/ A6

Coup jitters send cops rushing to Clark airport

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—A SPECIAL police force was dispatched to secure the airport inside the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga over the weekend but the head of the facility denied it was a re-

COUP/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, September 20, 2005 ★★ 40 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 284 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Freeze on VAT extended

Consumers get relief for another 2-3 weeks

By Armand N. Nocum and Abigail L. Ho

THE FREEZE ORDER ON THE 10-PERCENT EXpanded value-added tax (VAT) law, the centerpiece tax legislation of the Arroyo administration, will remain for about two to three weeks while the Supreme Court considers motions for reconsideration, according to a court spokesperson.

Implementation of the law will sharply raise the prices of goods and services at a time Filipinos are struggling to cope with surging world oil prices.

Beating the deadline to contest the tribunal's decision declaring the law constitutional, opposition lawmakers led by Sorsogon Rep. Joseph Francis Escudero and Bataan Gov. Enrique T. Garcia yesterday filed separate motions for reconsideration.

Rep. Renato Magtubo of the Partido ng Mangagawa and a group of petroleum dealers also filed their respective motions for reconsideration.

The 15-day deadline for the filing of motions was Saturday, but it was deemed moved to the next working day.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. said the date of mailing a motion was the date of its filing so the Supreme Court would have to await its receipt.

The freeze order, issued on the first day of the implementation of the VAT law on July 1, would remain until the court gives a final ruling on the motions, Khan said.

"In the meantime, this would be on the agenda of the (high tribunal) tomorrow [Tuesday] in its regular session and I expect that the final decision ... would take place within the next two or three weeks," he said.

The court on Sept. 1 ruled the VAT law constitutional but retained a freeze on its implementation to allow petitioners to reply to the ruling. The Supreme Court rarely reverses its rulings.

The law expands the sales tax base to include the electricity, fuel, air and sea transport, and other previously exempt industries. The rate was kept at 10 percent but it gave the President unprecedented powers to bypass Congress and raise it to 12 percent by next year under certain conditions.

The law also raises the corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years and brings it down to 30 percent after that.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said implementation of the VAT law was necessary if the government is to balance its budget and avoid going the way of an Argentine-style debt default.

Others who contested the VAT law were opposition senators led

FREEZE/ A8

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo stresses a point during her speech at the Stakeholders' Forum on Microfinance in Malacañang Monday, her first official activity here since arriving from the United States on Sunday. LYN RILLON

FBI FILES

3rd US document tracked generals' moves

By Norman Bordadora and Volt Contreras

AS CALLS MOUNTED FOR THE resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in July, the US Embassy said in a report to Washington, made available to the INQUIRER yesterday, that generals had begun rallying behind the opposition and an attempt to oust her could not be dismissed.

Political Officer Andrew MacLearn reported that the embassy "cannot fully rule out a possible near-term attempt to oust (Ms) Arroyo, but sees no chance of success given the fragmented, weak opposition and continued lack of a galvanizing issue."

The MacLearn report was the third document a source had given to the INQUIRER in as many days. The earlier reports were written by Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, now the US ambassador to Cambodia.

The reports appeared to be part of files allegedly stolen from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

3RD US/ A18

Lawmakers see venality in Venable lobby deal

By Philip C. Tubeza, TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

UNAPPEASED BY THE SCRAPping of a controversial lobbying contract with a US law firm, lawmakers yesterday ganged up on National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales for entering into what one congressman said was a "treasonous" deal.

As the Senate blue ribbon committee summoned Gonzales to a hearing tomorrow, opposition leader San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora accused Malacañang of entering into at least nine other supposedly "anomalous" contracts similar to that with the American Venable LLP.

Speaking in a taped interview on ANC last night, Ms Arroyo said she cancelled the Venable deal because "the matter of Charter change got into the picture and [it] became unnecessarily controversial."

"So I just scrapped it first and [will] review it," she said.

At one point, Ms Arroyo said: "We can just think about it again afterwards."

Lawmakers said Venable's contract carried with it a retainer of $75,000 a month (or more than P4 million) for a total of almost P50 million a year.

Zamora said that despite the cancellation of the deal, government officials should still be held liable for the "treasonous" provisions of the contract seeking foreign funding for a Palace initiative to change the Constitution.

"We've been informed that there are nine to 10 more contracts," Zamora said in a press conference. "We will be getting the full details (today). Basical-

LAWMAKERS / A18

Kids to study the ABCs of peace-building

By Volt Contreras

IF YOU DON'T FANCY A BLACK EYE, don't say: "Who broke my toy?"

This is a blind accusation against your playmates or siblings that could lead to tension, mistrust and, most likely, a bloody nose.

Instead, put it in diplomatic terms: "Why is my toy broken?" That way, you can get your answer without raising tempers and getting into a tussle.

Call it the ABCs of peace-building, the kind of lessons soon to be integrated in elementary and high school subjects and endorsed not just by educators, but by the very government agency that seeks a nonviolent end to the country's communist and Muslim rebellions.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process along with the Department of Education yesterday launched the "Peace Education Teaching Exemplars," a set of guidebooks for teachers on conflict-prevention or resolution.

"It's about mainstreaming the concept of peace in the education system," explained Undersecretary Rene Sarmiento, OPAPP officer in charge, at its launch at Aurora Quezon Elementary School in Galas, Quezon City.

He said the project, conceived as early as the '90s, would supplement the existing curricula with lessons that promote a culture of nonviolence among the young.

Sarmiento himself delivered a sample lesson to his audience, made up of

KIDS/ A8

CATHOLIC priests of the Diocese of Tagum City rev up their dirt bikes on their way to minister to the spiritual needs of the faithful in mountain barangays. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Padres ride bikes to keep faith alive

By Christian V. Esguerra

DAVAO CITY—WHILE CONTROVERSY over the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration raged in Metro Manila, the clergy had other things to worry about in this small, unassuming city down south.

In the diocese of Tagum, composed of Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley, priests are generally more concerned with evangelizing a flock of around 1.2 million Catholics.

"The political atmosphere here is very different from that in Manila," Fr. Pepe Mantica, 40, pastoral director of the Tagum diocese, told the INQUIRER.

It didn't necessarily mean that the local clergy was apathetic, Mantica said, if not oblivious, to the political wranglings in the nation's capital.

They realized that where Manila went,

PADRES/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The active low pressure area east of Visayas has developed into a tropical depression and was named "Labuyo." Bicol Region will experience rains, occasional gusty winds and moderately rough seas. The rest of the country will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/20/05 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bypassed general gets third star, plum post

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL BAGASIN HAS BEEN GIVEN a third star and installed as deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines – two weeks after he was bypassed for promotion to Southern Command (Southcom) chief in a move that brought accusations of politicking against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

As deputy chief of staff, which he formally assumed yesterday, Bagasin now has the rank of lieutenant general and holds the third highest position in the AFP. He replaced Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, who was appointed Southcom chief on Sept. 8 , the position that should have been Bagasin's based on the recommendation of the Board of Generals.

President Arroyo's last-minute decision to give the post to Adan provoked fresh disgruntlement among military officers who said the military once again had fallen victim to politicking. The officers also pointed out that Adan was up for retirement in four months.

Bagasin, the former 4th Infantry Division commander, formally took over as deputy chief of staff in simple indoor ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. His promotion and appointment to the new position were dated Sep. 13.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga presided over the turnover rites in the presence of Bagasin's parents and family who had flown in from the United States two weeks ago to witness his presumed assumption of the Southern Command on Sept. 9.

"At last there's joy," said Bagasin's father, Ereneo Bagasin, himself a retired military officer.

Adan himself, in his speech, did not refer to the brouhaha behind his appointment, first an officer in charge and then as permanent commander of Southcom.

But Bagasin did refer, in no uncertain terms, to the "trying times" he has had.

The entire AFP had expected Bagasin to be the next Southcom chief, a post that has produced several AFP chiefs of staff.

Officials said the President may have been swayed by the lobbying of 1st Infantry Division chief, Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, one of the four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal.

Bagasin said he retained a positive outlook throughout all this time and recalled how he had wished to be a member of the Board of Generals, the highest policy-making body in the military, when he made general a few years ago.

As the deputy chief of staff, Bagasin would get his wish to sit on that board.

"I did not see political color in the recent turn of events," Bagasin said. "I saw divine intervention. I saw the hand of God."

Senga denied that Bagasin's appointment as deputy chief of staff was meant to appease him and his supporters.

"This is in recognition of his talents and it is in accordance with the continuing reorganization that happens in the AFP every now and then," Senga told reporters before the ceremonies.

The military has not announced Bagasin's replacement as commander of the 4th Infantry Division.

AMBASSADOR Manuel T. Yan offers his condolences to Josefa Yorac, mother of Haydee Yorac, at the wake for the latter at the Santuario de San Antonio chapels yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

NGO funds unaccounted for, says solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS HAVE failed to account for P4.8-billion in government assistance funds last year, the chair of the House committee on appropriations said yesterday.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. said a Commission on Audit report to Congress showed that these groups, invariably known as nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and peoples' organizations (POs), had yet to liquidate P4.8 billion worth of financial assistance and grants from the government.

Andaya noted that the amount was larger than the P3.3 billion in unliquidated cash advances of national government officials and employees as of December 2004. It was also higher than the P3 billion in government grants that NGOs and POs had also failed to account for in 2003, he said.

Andaya said the government funds the NGOs failed to liquidate amounted to P3 billion at the end of 2003 and grew to P4.8 billion at the end of last year.

"This is not to indict the whole NGO sector but this report, to say the least, is disturbing," Andaya said. "Government has been at the receiving end of lectures on transparency in government spending from these groups but it seems not all practice what they preach."

He said it was possible some of the groups that had not properly liquidated or accounted for the funds extended to them by the government were "NGOs of the fly-by-night variety."

"There's actually a flourishing cottage industry on this one," Andaya said. "Or the charitable assessment that we can offer is that they were overwhelmed by the paper work that they opted not to be hassled by it. Or they just failed to meet the deadline in the submission of reports.

"But without the financial report, any expense is in the realm of the irregular, more so if the amount involved is small, like a few thousand pesos for the purchase of pigs. That would be easy to liquidate," he said.

Andaya said the COA report did not list the names of the NGOs and POs that failed to submit the required financial reports. It merely listed the government agencies that extended the assistance and to which the liquidation reports should have been submitted.

By department, the biggest donor was the Department of Agriculture which had yet to hear, as of Dec. 31, 2004, from those it had given P1.05 billion to in taxpayer money, Andaya said.

Also in the billion-peso league was the Department of Health, which disbursed P1.04 billion to NGOs and POs, he added.

Next were the Department of Science and Technology, P206 million; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P203 million; Department of Energy, P135 million; Department of Agrarian Reform, P132 million; Department of Labor and Employment, P120 million; Department of Public Works and Highways, P97 million; Department of Education, P55 million, and Department of Trade and Industry, P40 million.

Libingan burial for Yorac sought

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Blanche Rivera

AMID TALK OF THE FAMILY OF former President Ferdinand Marcos trying to clinch a deal with the Arroyo administration to have the late dictator buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, comes now a senator making a more acceptable proposal: Let the recently departed Haydee Yorac be given the honor of being laid to rest among the country's heroes.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. made the proposal in a Senate resolution filed yesterday as relatives, former colleagues and friends kept vigil at the wake for the former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government who died of cancer complications on Sept. 13.

Magsaysay, chair of the Senate agriculture committee, asked his colleagues to seek a hero's burial for Yorac in recognition of her "remarkable achievements" in government service.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo supported the resolution.

Also in agreement were coconut farmers in the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. But the militants hastened to point out that heroes and villains could not lie side by side.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said yesterday it was right for Yorac to be buried at the Libingan but added that one of the Philippines' top human rights defenders could not be buried next to the country's worst human rights violator.

"Yorac may turn in her coffin if she ever learns that this administration is conspiring to bury Marcos in the famous cemetery," Ramos said in a statement.

Magsaysay said well-known government personalities, veterans, guerrillas and retired and active military personnel could be laid to rest at the Libingan.

He said that more than being a well-known personality, Yorac was recognized as an "outstanding Filipino with her feisty conviction, high principles and for inspiring confidence in government through service of exceptional integrity and rigor and her unwavering pursuit of the rule of law."

Magsaysay called attention to the 2004 Ramon Magsaysay Award conferred on Yorac, which paid tribute to her stewardship of the PCGG's "stunning victories" in the recovery of the Marcos stolen wealth.

"These are the commission's largest gains since its establishment, a boon both for the Philippine agrarian reform program and, not incidentally, for the country's faith in justice," the citation said.

GMA won't touch Luisita

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is inclined to inhibit herself from presiding over the council that will decide the fate of the controversial stock option at Hacienda Luisita, according to a source in the Department of Agrarian Reform.

The President, who could have the last word on the Luisita case as chair of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, may not preside over the executive committee meeting of the council when it tackles the Luisita case.

"She does not want any decision to appear as having been colored with politics," the highly placed source said, alluding to the decision of former President Corazon C. Aquino, whose family owns Hacienda Luisita, to align herself with the foes of the President.

Aquino has called for Ms Arroyo's resignation amid allegations the President cheated in last year's elections. Aquino has also led street protests after administration lawmakers junked the impeachment complaint against the President.

Blanche S. Rivera

Breast-feeding only way to go, says WHO

FILIPINO FAMILIES TYPICALLY spend a quarter of their incomes on expensive infant formula substitutes instead of just breast-feeding their babies, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

"If you go by the cost of feeding your child with infant formula of about P2,000 per month, and when you compare that to the average income of a five-person family which is P7,000, it's a quarter of their income (that) goes to milk substitutes," said Dr. Jean Marc Olive, WHO representative in the country.

Milk substitutes are not only costly but also deadly, according to Olive, as he called attention to Philippine government data which showed that about 16,000 infants and toddlers die every year because they fail to get the proper nutrients from infant formula.

The babies die due to diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition, he said. The government spends as much as P450 million yearly to treat the diseases which could be avoided by exclusively breast-feeding babies within the first six months from birth, he said.

Breast-feeding "is the most cost-effective action in reducing child mortality," Olive said.

He urged the government to do more to spread awareness about the benefits of breast-feeding.

For a start, the WHO is providing seed money of P492,000 to the Liga ng mga Barangay (League of Villages) to fund a nationwide information campaign on breast-feeding under a memorandum of agreement the two agencies signed yesterday.

The MOA provides that the barangay league will promote breast-feeding initially in at least 1,000 barangays using the seed money from WHO.

In his speech, league president James Marty Lim described the campaign as a "David versus Goliath" effort, considering that it would eventually have to contend with multinational companies selling infant formula.

"It's no small battle," he said. But the WHO initiative could counter the companies' multimillion-peso campaigns by highlighting "success stories" of babies nurtured with breast milk, Lim said. *AFP, Christian V. Esguerra*

Airlines insist on 6-mo lead time for Naia 3

By Nikko Dizon

THE AIRLINE OPERATORS Council (AOC) yesterday reiterated that the 29 foreign carriers operating at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 would need six months to prepare for their transfer to the Naia Terminal 3.

In an interview, Santiago Medrana III, AOC vice president, also stressed the foreign carriers operating at the Naia should be informed by authorities of the latest developments on Naia 3.

"It's not so much about the contract, but the money that we would be spending on the airport. We are ready in six months, but we should be given a guarantee that all legalities are already settled so that our money won't end up just sitting there," Medrana told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The INQUIRER sought the AOC's reaction to the announcement of Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) general manager Alfonso Cusi last week that the Miaa aimed to have a test run of the mothballed Naia 3 in December, and then have it operational by January.

Miaa's schedule obviously falls short of the airlines' six-month requirement.

Medrana said it would take the airline companies six months to complete the paper work, as well as the fit-outs for their new offices, and test run their equipment and computer systems.

Medrana added the airlines had not yet been informed by Cusi that the Miaa would be giving the airlines their lease contract agreements by end of this month.

Medrana said that two years ago, the AOC estimated that the foreign carriers would have to spend a combined P500 million top transfer to Naia 3 from the aging Naia 1. By now, he said, the cost had risen.

Medrana also said the airlines need to be informed by the Miaa and the Manila Hotel Corp., which bought the Naia 3 shares of German company Fraport AG, on the status of the airport facility.

"We (airlines) are waiting for the Miaa and the new owners of Piatco (Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc.) to explain the situation to us," he said.

Czech on 'mission to kill' to be expelled

A CZECH NATIONAL WHO claimed he was on a mission to assassinate a Muslim leader in the Philippines is set to be deported after he was declared "mentally deranged" and an illegal alien by the Bureau of Immigration.

Vipezlav Busfy, 41, surrendered to the BI on Sept. 9 because he wanted to return to his country, Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said yesterday.

The Czech is now at the BI detention center pending resolution of deportation proceedings.

BI intelligence chief Faizal Hussin said he had earlier received a message from the United States government alerting the bureau about Busfy's mission to kill a Muslim leader in Mindanao.

The US government could have fallen for Busfy's claim that he was an undercover agent of the Czech government, the BI statement said.

It turned out, Hussin said, that his claim was unfounded.

"During our interrogation, we found out he is a mentally deranged foreigner who kept bragging to everyone that he is here on such a mission," he said in a statement.

BI special prosecutor Carlos Capulong, who also interviewed Busfy, said the Czech could not even name the target of his alleged assassination mission.

The BI also learned that Busfy appeared to have entered the country illegally because the passport he presented to the authorities did not have an immigration arrival stamp.

However, BI records showed the Czech entered the Philippines in November 2004. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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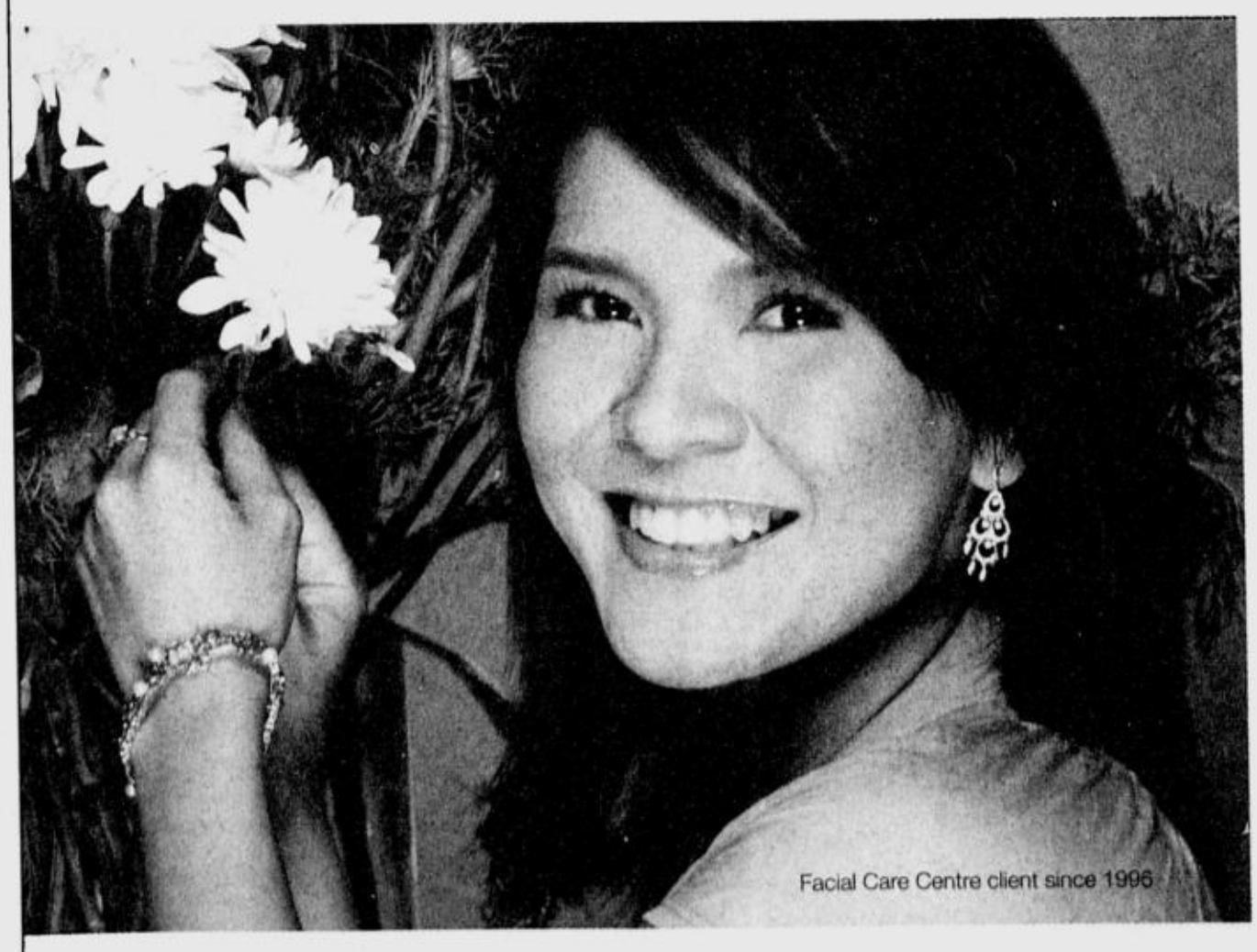

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RP must stanch exodus of docs, nurses, says WHO exec

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO LOSE its doctors and nurses to higher-paying jobs abroad unless a wide-ranging solution is drawn up soon, a top World Health Organization (WHO) official said yesterday.

In the next 15 years, the United States will be opening its doors to around one million nurses and this would attract local health professionals, Dr. Jean Marc Olive, WHO country representative in the Philippines, said yesterday.

Canada and Europe, already a favorite destination for Filipino nurses, are also expected to need "hundreds of thousands" of nurses to fill vacancies in their respective health care systems, Olive said.

The opportunities might prove irresistible to local nurses who earn roughly P11,000 or $200 a month. Salaries for similar workers in developed countries are at least five times higher.

"(The problem) has been existing for many, many years and it seems now that it's accelerating," Olive told reporters. "There is no magical solution. The problem links many things."

Last week, the Alliance of Health Workers (AHW) gave the local health care system two to three years before collapsing due to the unabated exodus of doctors and nurses for abroad.

Olive did not buy the prediction but pointed out that the problem would "not diminish" considering the steady demand for nurses in the US, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Europe and the Gulf region.

Olive said the country was essentially faced with the problem of "restricting the movement" of doctors and nurses driven to go overseas by poor working conditions and the lack of opportunities here.

"There has to be a lesser differential between what she earns here and what she earns in the US," he said. "(If that happens) maybe people will think better before leaving home."

Olive recalled the experience of Jamaica that lost its medical professionals who were lured by developed countries like Canada, United Kingdom and the US.

He said there was even a time when the diaspora had become so widespread that a nursing school was booked by would-be enrollees one year in advance. He said the school had an arrangement that sent its graduates to affiliate institutions abroad.

In the Philippines, he said, one possible solution would be to seek "retribution" from countries taking in local health professionals.

He said it could come in the form of remuneration given back by the migrating nurse or doctor to the country. It would be the person's way of acknowledging the local training he or she got.

Olive feared that without measures like this, even teachers in nursing schools might be enticed to work abroad. "In the long run, the quality of studies (will suffer)."

Some health officials have floated the idea of requiring medical graduates to work in the countryside before leaving for abroad. But others shot it down, saying it infringed on their right to chart their own career path.

Amid the proposals, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier appealed to the nurses' "sense of patriotism" in an effort to convince them to stay.

Last week, the AHW said a number of district hospitals had closed because of the lack of funding from local governments and the absence of doctors and nurses.

In Isabela alone, nine hospitals have shut down and two more were expected to follow suit, the group said.

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) FOR LAWYERS

11th MCLE Lecture Series to be held on October 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2005

The Supreme Court mandates ALL LAWYERS to comply with the 36 credit unit requirement under *Bar Matter 850* as a requisite for continuing the practice of law. Failure to comply would mean being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and will not be allowed to practice law. This lecture series is intended for lawyers who want to remove their delinquency incurred during the first compliance period ending December 31, 2004 as well as for those who want to start complying with the MCLE requirements for the second compliance period.

Please check the box of your chosen session		TIME	SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION/ CREDIT UNITS (CU)	TOPIC	LECTURER
October 8, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy (2 CU)	Oral Argumentations	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
		10:15-12:15pm	Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy (2 CU)	Preparation of Pleadings	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez *Associate Justice, Supreme Court*
	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws & Jurisprudence (2 CU)	Relevant New Amendments in the Rules of Procedure	Justice Ruben T. Reyes *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
		3:15-6:15pm	Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws & Jurisprudence (3 CU)	Salient Features of the Securities Regulation Code and the Interim Rules Governing Intra-Corporate Controversies	Ambassador Lilia R. Bautista *Former Chairperson, SEC*
October 15, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	International Law (2 CU)	International Law	Justice Isagani A. Cruz *Associate Justice, Supreme Court*
		10:15-12:15pm	Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws & Jurisprudence (2 CU)	New Rules on Notarial Practice	Justice Hector L. Hofileña *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	Trial & Pre-Trial Skills (2 CU)	New Rules on Pre-Trial	Justice Noel G. Tijam *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
		3:15-6:15pm	Alternative Dispute Resolution (3 CU)	Resolution of Disputes in the Construction Industry	Dean Custodio O. Parlade *Former Dean, San Sebastian College of Law*
October 22, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	MCLE-Prescribed: Environmental Law (2 CU)	Environmental Law as a Tool for Reform	Atty. Antonio A. Oposa *Chairperson, IBP National Environmental Action Team*
		10:15-12:15pm	Alternative Dispute Resolution (2 CU)	Dispute Resolution at the Workplace	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan *Former Dean, UP College of Law*
	PM Session ☐	1-3pm	Update in Substantive & Procedural Laws & Jurisprudence (2 CU)	Update in Criminal Law and Other Special Laws	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta *Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan*
		3:15-6:15pm	Legal Ethics (3 CU)	Obligations of a Lawyer	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr. *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
October 29, 2005	AM Session ☐	8-10am	MCLE-Prescribed: Reforms in the Law (2 CU)	Reforms on the Law on Citizenship	Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma *Head, Board of Special Inquiry, BI*
		10:15-12:15pm	MCLE-Prescribed: Technology & the Law (2 CU)	Forensic Evidence: DNA and its Analysis	Dra. Raquel B. Del Rosario-Fortun *M.D., FPSP, UP College of Medicine*
	PM Session	1-3pm	Trial & Pre-Trial Skills (2 CU)	Presentation of a Witness	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval *Associate Justice, Sandiganbayan*
		3:15-6:15pm	Legal Ethics (3 CU)	Hypothetical Issues in the Legal Profession	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino *Associate Justice, Court of Appeals*
Total Credit Units			36 CU		

Date/Day/Time: October 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2005
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Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, an article on Page E3 of the Lifestyle section—"New book on martial law"—misstated that former President Corazon Aquino would be the guest speaker at the Sept. 21 launching of the book, "Down from the Hill: Ateneo de Manila in the First 10 years under Martial Law." Aquino was invited to be the guest speaker at the book launch, but she declined the invitation due to another commitment.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

C Guard, Marina bury hatchet

THE RIFT BETWEEN the maritime industry Authority (Marina) and the Philippine Coast Guard which ensued following the implementation of the Domestic Shipping Act of 2004 has been resolved.

PCG commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan and Marina administrator Vicente Suazo last week signed a memorandum of agreement clarifying each other's roles in ship safety operations, according to a PCG statement.

Under the agreement, the PCG has been given the authority to perform maritime safety functions.

The MOA also authorizes the PCG, on behalf of Marina, to check that ships are not overloaded, do not contain illegal cargo, have the proper safety and emergency equipment, and have crew members versed in emergency procedures.

It also allows the PCG to issue special permits to carry dangerous cargo and to investigate marine incidents like collisions, ship attacks and accidents.

The PCG used to perform these functions but when the Domestic Shipping Act of 2004, or Republic Act 9295, was passed, these became Marina's responsibility.

After the act fully took effect in June this year, the PCG opposed the ensuing setup because it resulted in confusion between the two agencies and put sea vessels and passengers at risk.

In an earlier position paper, the PCG expressed its opposition to the arrangement where Marina still required the PCG to conduct safety inspections of sea vessels even though these were no longer the latter's responsibility under RA 9295.

Leila B. Salaverria

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Another customs official fails gov't lifestyle check

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE announced yesterday it had filed corruption charges before the Ombudsman against the customs operations officer at the Port of Manila for allegedly amassing wealth, including real estate and motor vehicles, "grossly disproportionate" to his lawful income.

The department's Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) also accused Prudencio Macaranas of owning a substantial stake in the customs brokerage firm Steadfast Air-Sea International Inc., a conflict-of-interest situation prohibited by law. Steadfast represents the interest of importers before the customs bureau while Macaranas, being a Manila customs operations officer, was in charge of the proper assessment and appraisal of imported goods and articles.

Macaranas was the 13th customs official charged by the RIPS with corruption since its creation in December 2003. Prior to charging Macaranas, RIPS also suspended the chief of the customs special police and two women customs officials.

In a statement, RIPS said Macaranas failed a lifestyle check and was caught with a "substantial" property ownership "grossly disproportionate" to his income as a government official.

RIPS said Macaranas "committed acts and omissions that are illegal, unjust, improper and/or otherwise irregular or immoral" in violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (Republic Act No. 3019), Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (RA 6713), the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (RA 1379), the Revised Penal Code, among others.

"Our commitment to fight graft and corruption in the revenue-generating agencies of the government has never wavered," Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said.

The customs officer, who RIPS said had a gross annual salary of P218,928 in his current post, was found to own or have owned a multimillion-peso property in Alabang, a house and a condominium in Parañaque City, another condominium at Wack Wack, a lot in Baguio City and several other properties in Naic, Cavite, and the Mango Orchard.

RIPS had also uncovered evidence that Macaranas and his wife owned additional substantial properties not declared in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), including two houses and lots in Multinational Village, Parañaque, two residential lots in Pangasinan and a parcel of land in Cavite.

Public officials and employees are required by law to file sworn statements detailing their assets, including those of their spouses.

Macaranas and his wife also owned or had owned several expensive vehicles, including a Volvo, Nissan Patrol, Honda CRV, Toyota RAV4, Mitsubishi Pajero and Lancer Evolution, RIPS said.

Macaranas was also in hot water for failing to file his SALN for the years 1990, 1996 and 1998.

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GMA seeks political truce; foes set big Sept. 21 march

From page A1

much politics, but her foes were still turning a deaf ear to her plea.

To press for her ouster, the largest opposition coalition, Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan (Coalition for the Truth), will hold a rally in Makati tomorrow.

"Malacañang should be nervous because there are more sectors represented this time," said Lito Anzures, spokesperson of the United Opposition chair, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Speaking before a gathering of groups engaged in microfinance, the President urged them to direct their efforts to productive activities.

"Let's use our energies not in engaging in political rumormongering but in producing three million small businesses and three million jobs," Ms Arroyo said in Malacañang.

She made the statement as rumors of a coup attempt against her began circulating again.

In an interview on ANC aired last night, Ms Arroyo indicated she was not yet over the hump.

Replying to a question, she said: "The political turmoil is never over under our present system. The turmoil will continue but I just have to face it each time ... I thank God that somehow He has been helping me to face all political changes ... we just have to move on."

Rally in Makati

Two weeks ago, Ms Arroyo escaped impeachment in the House of Representatives. She was accused of election fraud and other illegal activities.

Anzures said the rally on Sept. 21 would be attended by 40,000 people and would mark Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial rule in 1972 that saw the arrest of the regime's opponents and the closure of newspapers.

"They kept telling the opposition that many sectors are unrepresented [in the ouster call against Ms Arroyo]. Now, not only those from politics would be taking to the streets," Anzures said.

Countering public apathy

He said the broad-based protest may prod others to add their voices to the ouster call and agitate those who had been silent to finally march in the streets.

"This opens the door for their participation and encourages them to join us. This will counter the allegation that we are facing public apathy," Anzures said.

Bukluran has brought together the political opposition, militant groups, the academe, the youth, civil society, business and some outspoken priests and bishops.

The united front was formed early this month to solidify efforts to push Ms Arroyo out of office in view of allegations that she stole last year's presidential election.

Barely two days after Bukluran was formed, the impeachment complaints against the President were dismissed.

Among the estimated 500 leaders who formed the group were former President Corazon Aquino, actress Susan Roces (widow of Ms Arroyo's closest rival in the last elections, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.), and evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, who also lost in the May 2004 presidential race.

Anzures said Bukluran's wide representation in the rally would distinguish it from previous opposition protests.

"All of those statements being peddled by Malacañang—that the opposition is only politicking and destabilizing—would be rebutted, not just by counterstatements of opposition leaders," he said.

The broad opposition had staged at least three massive anti-Arroyo protests in Makati, the largest of which was in July when a crowd of 40,000 called for the President's ouster.

The previous rallies on Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue were mostly participated in by people belonging to militant groups and the political opposition.

Three million jobs

In her speech, Ms Arroyo said the goal of her administration was to create three million jobs from microfinance enterprises and small and medium enterprises between 2004 and the end of her term in 2010.

That's why she urged representatives of banks, government financial institutions, nongovernment organizations and lenders to improve the microfinance system to encourage more entrepreneurs to come in.

The improvements include making the Department of Social Welfare and Development serve as a conduit in areas where NGOs are not present, and putting People's Credit and Finance Corp. and Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. under the supervision of the Department of Trade and Industry.

The President said microfinancing was better than getting loans from loan sharks. "Microfinancing is our answer to 5-6."

P20.8 billion in micro credit

From July 2001 to May 2005, the government provided P20.8 billion in micro credit to 2.17 million borrowers nationwide, according to Rigoberto Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff chief.

Tiglao said the number of borrowers as of four months ago represented an increase of more than 600 percent from the initial 285,262 borrowers in 2001-2002.

At the Stakeholders Forum on Microfinance, Ms Arroyo also witnessed the awarding of checks amounting to P73 million in microfinance loans.

"Certain allegations have cast serious doubt on the electoral victory of the President in the recent elections. Unfortunately, the only legitimate avenue by which to evaluate that evidence and to vindicate the President - the impeachment process - was abruptly closed. This has severely impaired her credibility and has made it virtually impossible for her to unite and govern the country effectively."

- Former President Corazon C. Aquino
Misa Para sa Katotohanan
13 September 2005, Ateneo de Manila University

WE WILL DANCE THE CHA CHA WITHOUT GLORIA!!!

The Constitution, being the fundamental law of the land, is so important a document, its revision or amendment needs the whole attention of the framers and the vigilance of the broad citizenry. It also requires credible leadership untainted with questionable legitimacy and vested interests to be acceptable to the people.

This is exactly the opposite of what we have. The attention of the public, who should participate in framing the revision of the Constitution, is so divided given the termination of the impeachment process without any light being shed on the Gloriagate tapes scandal and other serious accusations against the President. The government leaders of Charter Change (Cha Cha) suffer the lowest credibility especially after the infamous September 6 murder of the impeachment process. Rightly or wrongly, Cha Cha via Constituent Assembly (Con Ass) will be publicly perceived more as a self-serving diversionary survival strategy of the President and her allies. Sadly, good messages and major reform proposals such as the shift to a federal-parliamentary system have been associated with the least credible messengers.

Under a more credible leadership, we can start to build a better nation and collectively transform our rotten electoral and political systems to make it very hard for people in power to lie, cheat, and steal. This system transformation will also allow the Filipino citizens to eventually have more economic, political, and cultural powers so they cannot be easily fooled by their governments.

In 2001, when the Craven 11 refused to open the second envelope, the nation rose in non-violent revolt. This time we have 158 Congresspersons who conspired with the President and sealed the truth about the accusations of her lying, cheating, and stealing in the elections of 2004. Celebrating her victory, the President now calls on us to move on and dance the Cha Cha.

But the truth cannot and should not be swept under the rug. It is in seeking the truth that we will find justice and real closure, an imperative in nation-building. We cannot just move on and continue living while turning our back on the truth. We cannot build a nation and leave the crafting of a new Constitution in the hands of liars, cheats and thieves. There is a time for analysis and reflection, but there is also a time for action. We did it before. We should be able to do it again. We call on every citizen nationwide to act and exercise their power as a people.

We will dance the Cha Cha under a new and credible national leadership and under a more participatory and more objective Constitutional Convention process. This time, with greater wisdom, we, as sovereign citizens, will change both the leaders and the system.

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Anti-GMA forces in Cebu form broader coalition

CEBU CITY—AROUND SEVEN anti-Arroyo groups in Cebu yesterday formally formed a broader coalition to unite their efforts in calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Coalition of Cebuanos against Gloria would kick off its series of protest actions with an interfaith prayer rally on Wednesday afternoon at the Fuente Osmeña Rotonda to coincide with the anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

Arman Perez, Bayan Muna coordinator for Central Visayas, said the commemoration of martial law was significant at this time that the President had shown signs that she wanted to stay in power even if the people did not like her anymore.

He added that the main goal of the coalition was the immediate removal of Ms Arroyo through the parliament of the streets.

Aside from Bayan Muna, the coalition is composed of the United Opposition Christian National Union, Bangon Pilipinas-Cebu, White Ribbon Movement, Gloria Step Down Movement, Arroyo Resign Movement of the youth and Guardians Brotherhood International.

In its statement, the coalition called on Cebuanos to also take a stand on the issues against the President.

"Cebuanos should prove false the misconception that Cebu is Arroyo country. Not doing something about it will only aggravate our already worsening condition. Now is the time to show our solidarity with the rest of the country," the statement said. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Coup jitters send cops ...

From page A1

sponse to a coup attempt.

"We were all on alert. But I have no idea about a coup," said Danilo Francia, a retired Philippine Air Force general and current president of the state-owned Clark International Airport Corp.

"We were just preparing for any eventuality of a sabotage or a takeover of the facility by any group," Francia told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Officials at Camp Olivas who spoke on condition they would not be named said 30 members of the Philippine National Police mobile force deployed to help the usual PAF contingent secure the tower of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at Clark at noon on Saturday.

The troops remained in the area until after President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived at the Manila airport at dawn Sunday from her six-day trip to New York to attend the World Summit marking the 60th anniversary of the United Nations.

An INQUIRER source in police intelligence said anti-Arroyo forces were poised to launch a coup over the weekend but the plot fizzled out on the suspicion it was a ploy to give Ms Arroyo an excuse to declare emergency powers.

"The plotters were ready to go, with or without a civilian component, but they backed out at the last minute," the source said.

The source said retired Col. Billy Bibit was reportedly among the plotters. The INQUIRER was unable to reach Bibit for comment.

No tactical value

Bibit was suspected of having links to Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, a known Arroyo loyalist. The source said Mendoza was using Bibit to lead the coup and give Ms Arroyo an excuse to declare an emergency.

But a source close to Bibit pooh-poohed the reports.

"The Clark tower has no tactical value. Why seize it?" the source said.

Also yesterday, Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, maintained there had been no coup attempts against Ms Arroyo as stated in US Embassy reports to Washington which had been released to the INQUIRER.

"No, no. As I've said, there is none," Senga said. He said he had yet to read the reports by US Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli before making a comment.

"We have remained firm in our position that we shall remain united in this stand not to intervene in any of the political undertakings that are going on," Senga said.

Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Army chief, said he had received text messages warning of a coup attempt.

"I have made my own verifications and we have found out that these are pure disinformation," Esperon said in an interview.

Rigoberto Tiglao, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, yesterday brushed aside reported coup plots as a "figment of somebody's imagination."

"If you look at the sequence of events since June, when this issue emerged, every propaganda was mobilized to force the President to resign and obviously the threat of a coup was another operation to force her to resign," Tiglao said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also dismissed the supposed coup rumors as idle talk and speculation.

"The President believes that the loyalty of the armed services is strong and that they have shown this in the past crises," Bunye told reporters.

On statements made by retired generals for the President to step down, Bunye said the generals were just making loud noise and doubted they would be able to mount destabilization moves.

"Our President is focused on what she needs to do ... she is not listening to these calls being made by some groups which probably do not even have any following," Bunye said.

On the possibility of filing rebellion charges against these retired generals, Bunye said: "How can you file rebellion charges against them when some of them could not even walk." *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Fe Zamora and Christine O. Avendaño*

Tillers, martial law victims oppose sale of Imelda jewelry

By Alcuin Papa

HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS OF the martial law regime and militant farmers are opposed to the sale of the Marcos jewelry collection, saying the Arroyo administration might spend the proceeds for purposes other than land reform.

Samahan ng mga Ex-detainees Laban sa Detensyon at para sa Amnestiya (Selda) chair Marie Hilao-Enriquez and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas Secretary General Danilo Ramos also called for an audit of all recovered Marcos funds.

"If I had my way, I would not want the jewels to be sold. But that does not mean they should be returned to the Marcoses. If they are to be sold, we wouldn't be sure who would benefit," Enriquez said.

She said her group had reason to believe recovered Marcos funds were not being used for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) as stipulated by law but for other purposes.

She said some funds may have been used by the Arroyo administration in the last presidential elections

In response, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said its only mandate was to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies, and dispose of this for CARP.

"It is our duty to dispose of the jewelry. They should ask the Department of Agriculture what they are doing with the funds," said PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede.

According to Enriquez, Selda had inquired into the status of the Marcos funds, particularly the $630 million recovered from Swiss bank accounts.

Hearings in Congress revealed the money was transferred to the National Treasury on Jan. 30, 2004.

Enriquez said that as of December 2004, a total of P8.8 billion was earmarked for release for CARP. Of this, P4.7 billion was released in April 2004. "Take note that was one month before the last presidential elections."

Selda also discovered that in July 2005, there was another release of P2.5 billion to CARP, bringing the total of the released funds to P11.3 billion.

For his part, Ramos said P4.1 billion of the P11.3 billion was set aside for land acquisition and distribution to farmers. "We talked to some farmers who told us the certificates of land ownership given to them as part of CARP were in fact canceled. So where was the money used?."

"We don't trust this government to take care of the funds coming from the sale of the jewelry. The government is spending stolen money which has been recovered and is now stolen again," Enriquez said.

Abcede announced recently the auction of the Marcos jewelry in November in Geneva, Switzerland. The auction is expected to fetch at least $10 million.

Imelda Marcos has filed a petition before a Manila court to stop the sale, saying the jewelry belonged to her with most of them being gifts and family heirloom pieces.

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2 senators hit Palace for flip-flop on VAT

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

UNABLE TO HIDE THEIR DISgust, administration Senators Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto yesterday assailed Malacañang for flip-flopping on the implementation of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax.

Senator Arroyo charged that President Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncement in New York that she was amenable to deferring the VAT law, and her arrival statement that she was supporting the full implementation of the law smacked of "doublespeak."

"I think Malacañang is speaking with a forked tongue," Arroyo said at a press briefing. "One is for foreign consumption, and which is that they will push through with the VAT as it is, and the other is for domestic consumption, which is to postpone its enforcement."

"In short, if it's not postponed, the President can always say 'I tried to postpone it, but Congress did not. Don't blame me.' You can see this kind of a game. There's never any sincerity now," he said.

The President is amenable to deferring the VAT on oil and electricity but only if Congress initiated the deferment, according to aides.

Rep. Joey Salceda has filed a resolution seeking to defer the VAT law's implementation on oil and electricity to ease the burden on consumers. Sen. Manuel Roxas II and 10 other senators have sponsored a counterpart resolution.

But presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye appealed to members of Congress not to stop the implementation of the VAT measure.

"Unless Congress puts up a formal restraint, we are not backing out of a measure that intrinsically serves the interest of the poor," Bunye said in a statement.

Recto, chair of the committee on ways and means, shared Senator Arroyo's view that the President should clarify her position before the Senate begins debates on proposed amendments to the law.

"Congress is finding a hard time deciphering Malacañang's message on VAT. It seems that it has one message for the market, which is to stick to VAT, and one for the masses, which is to junk it," Recto said. "Will the real GMA please stand up?"

Grudgingly

Recto said the President should have selectively vetoed the VAT bill if she found some provisions unacceptable.

"She had that power. She could have excised provisions she found objectionable. After all, this was her bill. This was not passed upon the insistence or the initiative of the House or the Senate. We passed this grudgingly," he said.

Senator Arroyo chided Salceda and other lawmakers who batted for the deferment of the VAT after pushing for its approval in congressional hearings and later in a long-drawn out bicameral conference.

"But the strangest thing here is that those who are advocating now for the suspension of the VAT were the very ones who pushed through with the VAT almost without exception ... Because of the forked tongue," he said.

Senator Arroyo singled out Salceda, saying that he was one of the leading advocates of the VAT and campaigned for it only to reverse himself three months later.

"What do they think of Congress? We pass a bill and then after that, they turn around. A tax matter like this is not a toy, *urong-sulong*," he said.

Mouthpiece

He and Recto, however, voiced doubts the lawmakers' resolutions would defer the implementation of the VAT law.

"That's just a scrap of paper," Senator Arroyo said of Salceda's resolution, hinting that this was not the congressman's position, but the executive department's. "Salceda is only a mouthpiece; he can't think for himself."

"Others contend that it should be a bill considering the fact that the new VAT law cuts or scraps the excise tax on certain types of fuel as well as the franchise tax on electricity," Recto said.

Salceda to pursue reso

"If we will just defer VAT on these products without correspondingly postponing the cut on the excise tax, the result will be a revenue loss for the government," he said.

Despite the mixed signals from Malacañang, the House resolution calling for the deferment of the implementation of the VAT on power and petroleum products will proceed, Salceda said.

He said he would pursue the approval of the House joint resolution he filed, noting that a majority of members of the House (147 lawmakers, including three from the opposition) had already supported it.

"The resolution should be allowed to unfold its natural course," said Salceda, an economic adviser of the President's.

He said he would pursue the resolution because Ms Arroyo had said that she was amenable to the deferment of the VAT on oil and power if Congress wanted it.

"The House is elated by the position of PGMA, which gives flesh to the constitutional power and duty of Congress as the primary policy-making body of the government, even in economic matters," he said.

"This is a step in the right direction in putting institutions in their rightful role by correcting the historical anomaly of the DOF (Department of Finance) monopoly of fiscal policy, a tradition enshrined by the Marcos dictatorship under IMF-WB (International Monetary Fund-World Bank) sponsorship," he said.

Flexibility

Salceda said that the resolution, which has a Senate counterpart, would not amend the VAT Reform Law but would only give the President the "flexibility" to choose whether or not to defer the VAT on oil and power.

He said lawmakers identified with the opposition—Roilo Golez, Joseph Emilio Abaya and Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo—also supported it.

But Salceda said that the resolution would probably take effect only after the Supreme Court shall have lifted its freeze order on the VAT law.

"The resolution would be academic unless the Supreme Court lifts its temporary restraining order. We cannot defer something that has yet to be implemented," he said.

Freeze on VAT extended

From page A1

by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and the Abakada Guro party-list group.

Standby authority

"They questioned the constitutionality of a provision in the law giving the President "standby authority" to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent in January, among others.

"In its decision, the high court said there was no basis to the charge that the standby authority amounted to a "virtual abdication by Congress of its exclusive power to tax."

"There is no undue delegation of legislative power but only of the discretion as to the execution of a law. This is constitutionally permissible," the Supreme Court said.

Undue delegation

"Congress did not delegate the power to tax but mere implementation of the law. The intent and will to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent came from Congress and the task of the President is to simply execute the legislative policy. That Congress chose not to do so in such a manner is not within the province of the court to inquire into, its task being to interpret the law," the tribunal said.

In his motion, Escudero maintained that the standby authority of the President under the VAT law, or Republic Act No. 9337, "constitutes undue delegation of legislative authority."

"In his heart, the ordinary Filipino knows that no law is valid if Congress goes beyond its powers. He knows that no law is valid if Congress goes beyond its powers," he said.

"He knows that the executive, even if well-meaning, cannot bring a tax into existence."

Escudero also argued that the "deletion" of the "no pass on provisions" for the sale of products and power generation services "constituted grave abuse of discretion amounting to a lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of the bicameral conference committee."

PARTY-LIST Rep. Rene Magtubo of Partido ng Mangagawa and lawyer Eugenio Villareal show a copy of the motion for reconsideration that the opposition filed before the Supreme Court to stop the implementation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law. REM ZAMORA

In their motion, the petroleum dealers said the Supreme Court failed to fully appreciate the oppressive effect of the questioned provisions on them and the people.

The dealers earlier asked the tribunal to declare unconstitutional some of the provisions of the VAT law, including the 70-percent cap on the creditable input VAT, the 60-month amortization of input VAT on goods costing more than P1 million and the 5-percent final withholding VAT on gross payments by the government or any of its agencies on their purchases of goods and services.

The 70-percent cap on the input VAT alone would cause pump prices to skyrocket by between P3 and P6 a liter, based on July 1 pump prices, the dealers said.

Fuel pump prices have increased several times since July 1, further jacking up the possible additional price adjustment that the 70-percent input VAT cap would bring.

"Since July 1, the peso has devalued and the price of petroleum in the world market has increased. The weakening of the peso and rising crude costs would further aggravate the burden brought about by the 70-percent cap," the dealers said.

They added that since they had nominal gross profit margins, the input VAT limitation was "unjust, arbitrary, unreasonable, oppressive and confiscatory, ultimately threatening our continued viability."

Without the 70-percent cap, the dealers said the rise in fuel prices would be only between P2.30 and P2.50 a liter using July 1 prices. Pump prices have risen by around six times since July 1, each time by 50 centavos a liter.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have increased 18 times, or by a total of P9.35 a liter, while diesel fuel prices have gone up 17 times, or by a total of P8.55 a liter. *With a report from AFP*

Kids to study the ABCs of peace-building

From page A1

AQES pupils, by reading aloud a story on how two warring tribes finally settled a dispute over a captured deer.

It turned out that the two tribes, as revealed during a mediated truce, had different needs for the deer. One group was after the meat while the other wanted the hide. The moral of Sarmiento's tale—conflicts could be solved through patient dialogue.

Life lessons

The guidebooks serve as "proposed lesson plans" that outline classroom activities or reading materials according to topics such as cultural diversity, religious tolerance and respect for human rights. They also tackle personal aspects such as making friends and coping with problems at home.

These sessions are to be woven into the pupils' regular social studies and values formation classes, or even in their language subjects.

For instance, if the day's lesson is how to use the dictionary, the English teacher may ask her students to look up the meaning of words related to the quest for peace, such as "conflict," "war," "terrorism," "rights," "respect," etc.

The guidebooks have entire chapters explaining differences and similarities in the world's major religions, as well as the importance of respecting each other's faith.

'You've got a friend'

Another prescribed exercise helps students handle negative feelings or conflicts in their personal lives by asking questions: "If mom and dad often break into an argument over the family budget, how do you think they could resolve it? What if you're now watching your favorite telenovela but your brother hates it? You're planning a family vacation, but what if you want to go to Batangas and your sister wants to go to Laguna?"

One chapter in the guidebook's high school version seems tailor-made for teens: The activity requires the teacher to play James Taylor's song "You've Got a Friend" and then ask the class to write an essay based on the theme "My Way to Peace."

There's also a comics-reading session for pupils in Grades 4 to 6, a story about two boys—a Muslim and a Christian—who clear up their misconceptions of each other's cultures and become friends. This happens when both their families end up in the same evacuation center during a rash of fighting in Mindanao.

Bakwit's tale

The comics is titled "My Neighbor: A *Bakwit*'s tale." The term *bakwit* is short for "internally displaced persons."

The teachers' kit comes in two volumes both for the elementary and high school levels.

The target is to provide a set each for all the 43,000 public grade schools and high schools nationwide, according to Mike Alar, OPAP program officer for education and advocacy.

As of yesterday's launch, around 1,000 books had been produced for distribution mostly in "conflict areas" in Mindanao, he said.

The project was funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid). The initial publication and the subsequent teachers' orientation seminars, Alar said, would cost around P12 million.

Padres ride bikes to keep faith alive

From page A1

the rest of the country usually followed.

But there were more pressing problems in Tagum, the priest said, citing immense poverty and communist insurgency.

Every so often, Mantica and fellow priests would scale the mountains of Tagum on dirt bikes to touch base with their respective *Gagmay Kristohanon Katilingban* (GKKs).

Too many souls

The GKKs, also known as Basic Ecclesial Communities, are communities of Catholics who assemble in remote areas to compensate for the insufficient number of priests in a diocese.

Mantica and fellow priests would visit the GKKs and say Mass, give confession and baptism to keep the Catholic faith alive.

Road less taken

Tagum has at least 100 priests—the biggest number in Mindanao. They look after 3,000 GKKs supervised by 35 parishes. Each GKK has between 50 and 100 parishioners and they assemble in a chapel.

Simply put, priests here aren't that few; there are just too many souls to look after.

Since 85 percent of GKKs were in the mountains, Tagum priests had to learn to ride motorcycles in order to reach more communities.

It was no easy task. It usually took three hours to reach a far-flung GKK—two hours on a bike and another hour on foot.

Mantica and his peers didn't mind.

"The important thing is to evangelize," he said.

Motorbiking was so important for Tagum priests that learning to ride a bike had become a requirement at the seminary, according to Fr. Emerson Luego, administrator of the city's newly built Christ the King Cathedral and leader of its 104 "priests on wheels."

God's Word on wheels

After ordination, each priest was given a cassock, a Bible and a motorcycle for his apostolate, said the 31-year-old priest and professional biker.

On their bikes, Luego and company looked more like a motorcycle club, especially since they're suited up in red and black uniforms, complete with shades, helmets and pads.

The only give-away of their holy vocation was the patch "Tagum clergy" stitched on their red-and-black getup.

For these priests, riding a cool bike was simply a means to spread God's word.

And as commercial centers rose in Tagum, so did churches and vocations.

The soon-to-open Christ the King Cathedral with its majestic altar and gleaming walls is more radiant than most churches in Metro Manila. Every year, the seminary receives 300-500 applicants but accepts only 30 to 40.

Learning to fish

Mantica said the challenge of every local priest was how to address Tagum's most daunting problem—poverty.

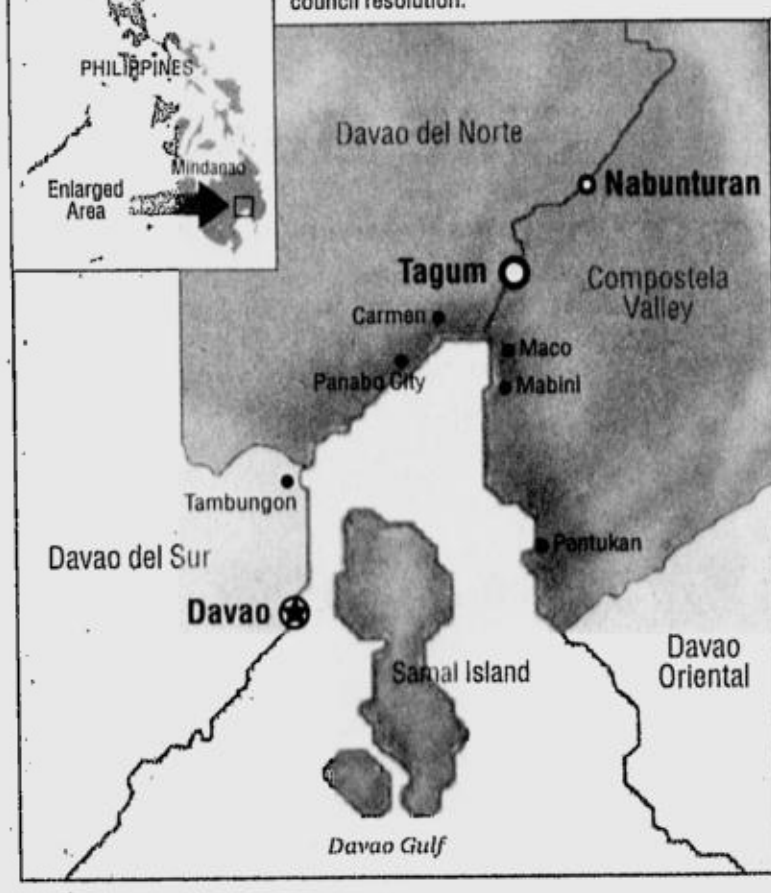
In 1995, the diocese put up the Spes Pauperum Foundation Inc. which provided microfinancing for the city's poor residents. It lent seed money of at least P3,000 at 3 percent interest payable in two months.

The lending scheme took the place of a previous church program that centered on income-generating projects but which failed because "it simply gave people fish, but did not teach them how to catch fish."

"We're more focused on capability-building, teaching people to stand on their own feet," Mantica said.

City of Tagum

Originally named Magugpo based on a legend that natives in the area were occupying a river basin inside a thickly covered forest where they could not see the sun. Magugpo was derived from "mago," a tree, and "ugpo," meaning very high. The name was changed to Tagum in the 1940s through a municipal council resolution.



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Population (2000 census): 179,531

Registered voters (2004):106,555

Dialect: Cebuano

No. of barangays: 23

Income classification: 3rd class

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Agricultural Products: Bananas, Durian, Mangoes, Pomelos, Mangosteen

INQUIRER SAMBO

Customs bureau makes things easier for travelers

By Nikko Dizon

"MABUHAY! WELCOME TO THE Philippines! To ensure smooth Customs clearance, please read these guidelines thoroughly."

This is the introduction to the passenger guidelines primer launched by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

With this primer, the BOC-Naia hopes to avoid the perennial heated disputes between Customs inspectors and passengers at the airport, Mimel Talusan, BOC-Naia collector, told reporters in an interview.

Talusan said there were usually many arguments between inspectors and passengers, who often accuse the former of simply being interested in the items they bring in.

"Hopefully, with the primer we'll be able to avoid getting calls from politicians who say that this bag of fruits is for this or that person," Talusan said.

Fruits are among the agricultural products subject to quarantine laws, she said.

The primer was launched in time for the 45th anniversary of the BOC-Naia, as part of its service enhancement program.

Talusan said the primers would be distributed inside airplanes, along with the customs declaration form, by next week.

This way, Talusan said, even airline companies would be informed of Philippine customs rules.

The primers will also be given to departing passengers, such as Filipino tourists, so that they would be pre-advised on what they could bring back to the country.

The four-panel primer lists the prohibited and regulated articles (i.e., marijuana, cocaine, firearms, toy guns, obscene or immoral articles, elephant/ivory tusks, used clothing and rags, DVDs, VCDs); agricultural and wildlife products without import documentation from the country of origin; currency regulations, and exemptions or duty-free concessions.

The Daily Gospel

Tuesday, September 20, 2005
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezra 6:7-8,12,14-20
Gospel: Luke 8:19-21

The mother and relatives of Jesus came to him, but they could not get to him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and wish to meet you." Then Jesus answered, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

Commentary

Jesus' family arrives: his mother and relatives but they can't get near him because of the crowd. Someone alerts them to their predicament and surprisingly he doesn't care. They are not his family. They were his family of origin, but he is now about his Father's business of preaching the Word of good news to the poor and bringing the kingdom among those in desperate need of hope, of life and forgiveness, justice, mercy and peace. He is clear on who is family to him; what constitutes intimacy and closeness in the family of baptism and grace: "My mother and brothers and sisters are those who hear the word of God and do it." That's the blood tie, the water ties of baptism and the blood connections of eucharist and shared suffering. If we want to be Jesus' mother, brother or sister, then we must listen to his Word, obey and make it come true in our lives.

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Supreme Court Doctrines

CIVIL LAW (PROPERTY) - Easement - An easement or servitude is a real right, constituted on the corporeal immovable property of another, by virtue of which the owner has to refrain from doing, or must allow someone to do, something on his property, for the benefit of another thing or person. The statutory basis for this right is Article 613, in connection with Article 619, of the Civil Code. Petitioners herein failed to show by competent evidence other than their bare claim that they and their tenants, entered into an agreement with respondent, through her foreman, to use the pathway to 18th Avenue, which would be reciprocated with an equivalent 1.50-meter wide easement by the owner of another adjacent estate. The petitioners were unable to produce any shred of document evidencing such agreement. The Civil Code is clear that any transaction involving the sale or disposition of real property must be in writing. Thus, the dearth of corroborative evidence opens doubts on the veracity of the naked assertion of petitioners that indeed the subject easement of right of way was a voluntary grant from respondent. Second, as admitted by the petitioners, it was only the foreman who talked with them regarding said pathway on the northern side of respondent's property. It is, therefore, foolhardy for petitioners to believe that the alleged foreman of respondent had the authority to bind the respondent relating to the easement of right of way. Third, their explanation that the foreman submitted said agreement to the Quezon City Engineer's Office, in connection with the application for a building permit but said office could no longer produce a copy thereof, does not inspire belief. As correctly pointed out by the trial court, petitioners should have requested a subpoena duces tecum from said court to compel the Quezon City Engineer's Office to produce said document or to prove that such document is indeed not available. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Chico-Nazario, Second Division, De la Cruz v. Ramiscal, G.R. No. 137882, February 4, 2005]

By R.B. Vera

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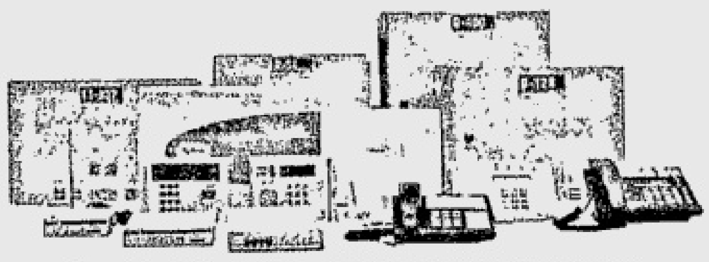

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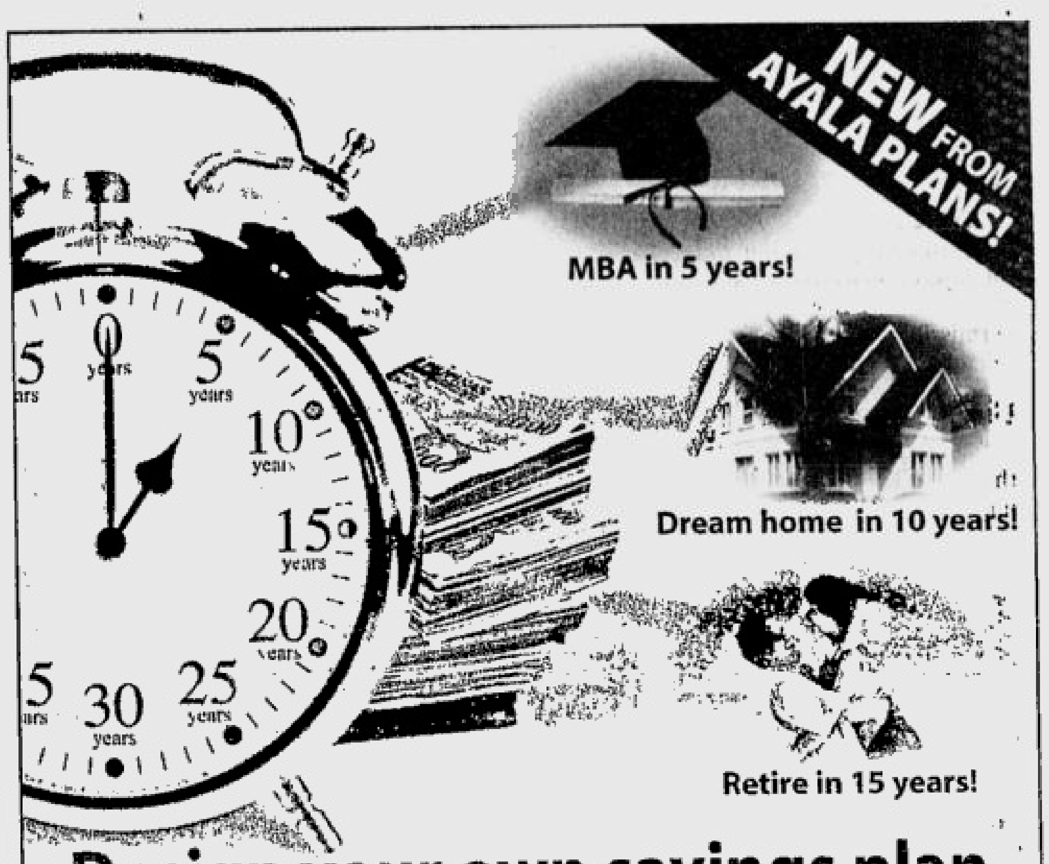

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Breakthrough in N. Korea nuke talks

BEIJING—NORTH KOREA PLEDGED MONDAY TO GIVE UP its nuclear weapons in exchange for promises of aid and security, the first major breakthrough in more than two years of deadlock over the high-stakes crisis.

The agreement also said the United States would respect the North's sovereignty and not attack, a fear that Pyongyang repeatedly said was a main reason for insisting on developing an atomic bomb program.

The statement capped a week of tough negotiations in Beijing involving the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States, which have held four rounds of talks since August 2003 aimed at persuading the North to disarm.

"This is the most important result since the six-party talks started more than two years ago," said chief Chinese envoy Wu Dawei as all six envoys rose and clapped.

According to the joint agreement, the North would renounce all nuclear weapons and programs, return to the international Non-Proliferation Treaty and allow UN weapons inspectors back into the country.

In return, the other nations agreed to "recognize" the North's demand for nuclear energy and said Pyongyang's request to have a light-water nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes would be revisited "at an appropriate time."

Agreement to move forward and meet again in November avoided the immediate possibility of Washington taking the issue to the UN Security Council to press for sanctions, a move opposed by China, the North's main backer.

North Korea has said such a step would be tantamount to war.

The United States has already accused Pyongyang of not holding to a 1994 agreement, under which construction of nuclear reactors began in the North, and Monday's agreement offered no specifics on when the various pledges would be met.

It said the goals would be achieved "at an early date" and that progress depended on "commitment for commitment, action for action." Another round of talks was set for November.

The United States has indicated that it wants the process to start with a complete and verifiable dismantling of North Korea's weapons, while Pyongyang has insisted on a step-by-step approach.

In what appeared to be a concession, Washington agreed in the statement to gradually normalize relations with the reclusive regime headed by Kim Jong-il. *AFP*

KGB penetrated all levels of Gandhi gov't, book says

LONDON—RUSSIA'S FEARED KGB SPY service penetrated all levels of the Indian government under Indira Gandhi in the 1970s and became a major cash backer of her Congress (R) party, according to a book published on Monday.

The KGB operation in India during that period was its largest in the world outside the Soviet bloc and it even had to create a new department to handle it, according to The Mitrokhin Archive II based on the KGB's own secret files.

"During 1975 a total of 10.6 million rubles was spent on active measures in India designed to strengthen support for Mrs. Gandhi and undermine her political opponents," the book says.

The Congress party, which currently heads India's federal coalition government, rejected the allegations.

"It's a completely baseless story intended only for sensationalism," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said in New Delhi, adding that the book was not based on official archives.

But the main opposition group, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), demanded an investigation.

"The perception of Congress-KGB links has always been there. The book only makes it stronger. We want a federal probe into this," BJP party spokesperson Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said.

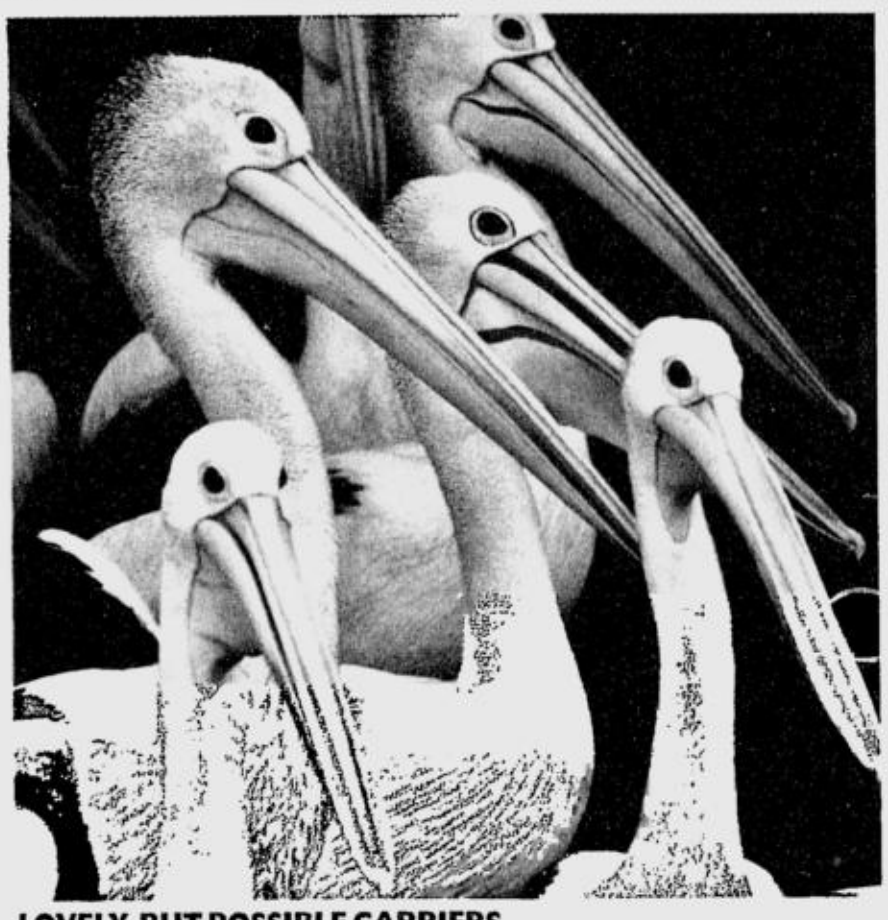
The book is the second volume detailing the Cold War activities of the KGB, based on top secret agency files stolen more than two decades ago by archivist Vasili Mitrokhin and handed over in 1992 when he defected to Britain.

The book says that suitcases of money were regularly taken into Gandhi's house to fund the Congress party, and in the 1977 poll which she lost, nine party candidates were KGB agents.

And when Gandhi returned to power in 1980, the KGB proceeded to influence Indian government policies by fueling her paranoia of CIA plots through disinformation tactics backed by forged documents leaked to the press.

When Gandhi's son Rajiv took over from her after she was assassinated in 1984, the KGB continued to both court and scare him through lavish receptions and more tales of CIA plots.

The relationship only foundered when Rajiv lost power in 1989 and as the Soviet Union itself started to disintegrate. *Reuters*



LOVELY, BUT POSSIBLE CARRIERS

Pelicans group together in their cage at the Jakarta zoo Sept. 19. Three Indonesian children are suspected of having been infected with bird flu, a health official said Monday, while the Jakarta zoo remained closed over an outbreak of the disease. AFP

Pyongyang, Tokyo agree to normalize ties

BEIJING—JAPAN AND NORTH KOREA pledged again Monday to work towards normalizing relations soured by the Cold War abduction of Japanese citizens by the communist state's agents.

The pledge was made in a joint statement at the end of a fourth round of six-party talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program in exchange for security guarantees and economic help.

"The DPRK (North Korea) and Japan undertook to take steps to normalize their relations in accordance with the Pyongyang Declaration, on the basis of the settlement of the unfortunate past and the outstanding issues of concern," the statement said in part.

In a landmark visit to North Korea in September 2002, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed the declaration with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. Both sides agreed to normalize relations, resolve the issue of kidnapped Japanese citizens and remove security concerns.

At that time Japan pledged to extend economic aid to the impoverished but heavily armed Stalinist state after they establish diplomatic ties, as a token of atonement for its colonial rule of the Korean peninsula between 1910 and 1945. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Uncertainty in Germany after election stalemate

BERLIN—GERMANY HEADED for weeks of political uncertainty after a knife-edge general election gave Angela Merkel's conservatives a victory so narrow that Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder refused to concede defeat.

Merkel, who only weeks ago seemed to be cruising to an easy win, secured three more parliamentary seats than Schroeder's SPD, giving her first shot at forming a new government and keeping alive her hopes of becoming Germany's first woman chancellor.

But her chances of pushing through the reform agenda she has trumpeted on the campaign trail for months look limited after an election which looked like the most inconclusive in post-war German history.

"This is a total disaster," said Michael Burda, an economics professor at Humboldt University in Berlin. "Merkel has a razor-thin lead so she has an implicit right to start negotiations to form a government. But if you look closely there aren't many options."

CHANCELLOR Gerhard Schroeder and his challenger Angela Merkel. AP

The most likely outcome would appear to be a "grand coalition" among Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU), their sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), and the SPD.

But hostilities between Germany's top two parties, after an unusually nasty campaign, could prevent that.

On German television, an ebullient Schroeder mocked Merkel on Sunday and vowed his party would never form a coalition under her leadership.

"War of the chancellors," top-selling German daily Bild said in its headlines. "Germany girds for brutal power struggle after stalemate."

Whatever constellation results, the vote appears to be a blow to those who had been hoping Germany would choose Merkel's reforms and set the agenda for Europe.

Countries like France and Italy had been watching the election closely, eager to see which path Germans chosethe liberal, unregulated route favored in the United States and Britain or the state-heavy role preferred in much of Europe.

There was no clear mandate for Merkel's argument that Germany needed to accelerate reforms. She had vowed to cut bureaucracy, ease rules on firing and cut payroll costs to reinvigorate a German economy that has gone from Europe's powerhouse to its weak link.

The euro hit a four-week low against the US dollar in Asian trading and investors predicted damage to stocks when trading began in Europe.

"It's a significant disappointment for financial markets because it means a setback for reform hopes and perhaps political uncertainty," said Holger Schieding, an economist at Bank of America.

The election's impact on German foreign policy is less clear. Merkel had vowed to improve ties with Washington, strained by Schroeder's vocal opposition to the Iraq war, and prevent Turkey from joining the European Union.

Whether she will be able to see these policies through is now questionable.

The tight result immediately set off speculation about new coalition possibilities—some of which have never been seen before. *Reuters*

NZ's Clark negotiates to form government

WELLINGTON—NEW ZEALAND is set for two weeks of political limbo before the release of final election results as caretaker Premier Helen Clark negotiated Monday to put together what is likely to be a fragile government.

Clark returned to the capital Wellington Monday for negotiations with minor parties after one of the closest elections in recent history on Saturday. But nothing can be set in stone before 218,000 special votes are counted and final results released on Oct. 1.

Clark, who has been prime minister since 1999, said that after she completes "exploratory talks" with minor parties, there would be a pause leading up to the release of the final results.

She told national radio the parties would "need to be in a position to move reasonably expeditiously" to form a government after Oct. 1 to allow parliament to be recalled as required by late October or early November.

Clark's center-left Labour Party has the best chance to form a government based on provisional results released Saturday, with 40.7 percent of the vote or 50 seats.

The center-right National Party, led by Don Brash, was within a whisker of Labour, with 39.6 percent of the vote or 49 seats in a 122-member parliament. *AFP*

Millions of Afghans turn out for vote, defy Taliban threats

KABUL—TALIBAN FIGHTERS FAILED TO sabotage Afghanistan's first legislative elections in decades, with millions of voters turning out on Sunday for a ballot President Hamid Karzai called a defining moment for the nation.

There was no major violence against voters, despite more than two dozen harassing attacks by the guerrillas across the troubled south and east in which at least 14 people died.

"We're building our country, we're making our parliament," said Mohammed Twahir, 36, after voting in the southern city of Kandahar, once a bastion of support for the Taliban.

"Before there was no democracy, now we have democracy. Democracy means freedom."

That enthusiasm was echoed by many other voters.

"I'm so happy, I couldn't sleep last night and was watching the clock to come out to vote," said Qari Salahuddin, 21, in the eastern city of Jalalabad soon after voting began.

There was an early scare in Kabul when two rockets hit a UN compound near an election center shortly after polls opened, wounding an Afghan worker.

Most of the fatalities occurred in violence near the Pakistani border, just before and during the UN-organized vote.

Rockets and mortars killed at least five civilians, two of them children, and a mine blast killed a French soldier. A Taliban fighter died attacking a polling station overnight and three more were killed in a clash in which two policemen died.

But the UN-Afghan election commission said voting in the first legislative elections since 1969 had been remarkably peaceful and the government hailed a victory over the insurgents.

"It went very well, beyond our expectations. After all their boasting, it's a big failure for the Taliban," said Interior Ministry spokesperson Lutfullah Mashal.

Voting was held at over 6,000 polling sites from the deserts of the south to the towering Hindu Kush mountains of the northeast, one of the most difficult logistical operations ever undertaken by international electoral workers.

About 12.5 million Afghans registered to vote for a lower house of parliament and provincial councils for which about 5,800 candidates sought seats. Donkeys and camels transported voting materials to some remote districts.

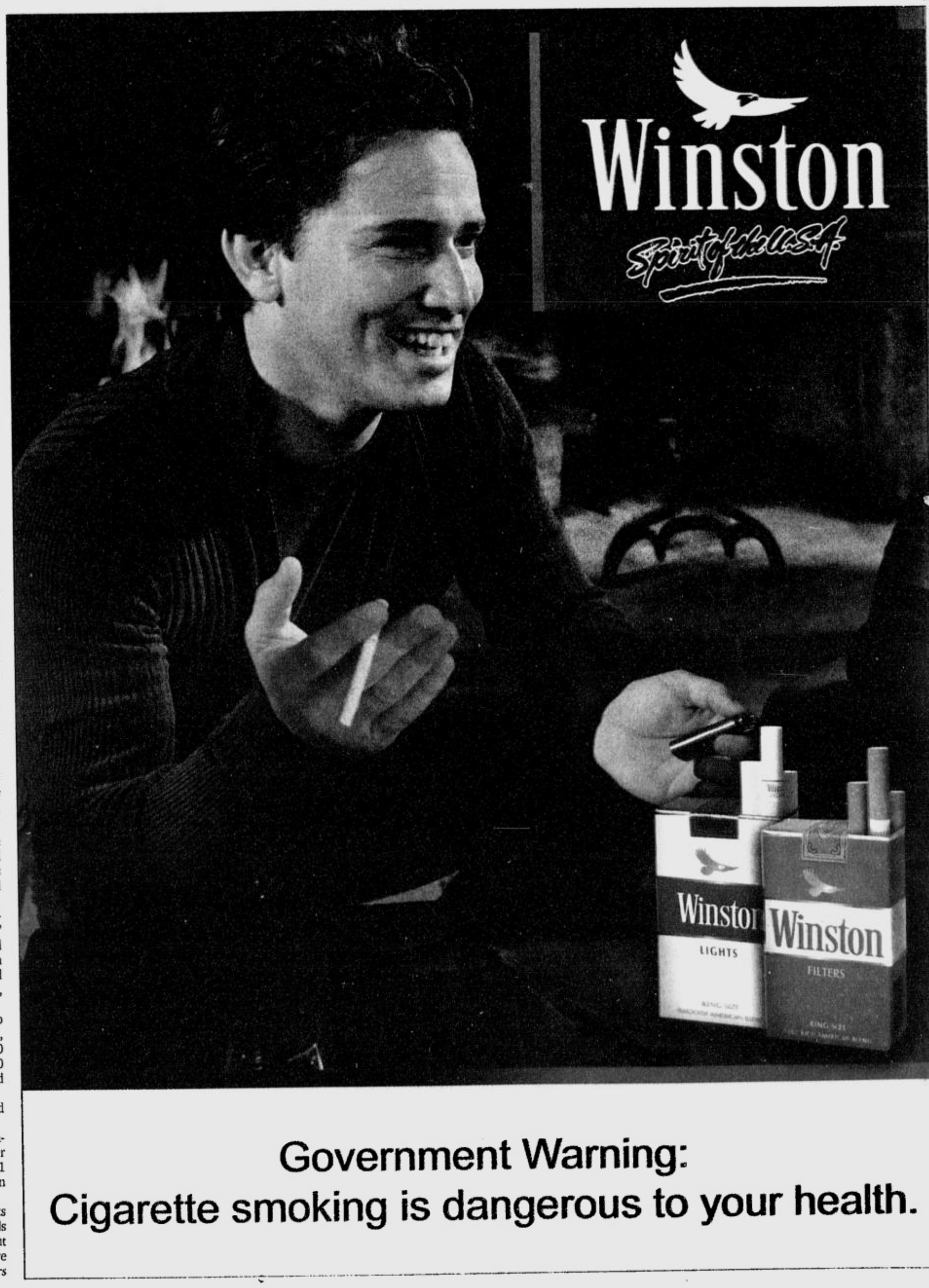
Chief electoral officer Peter Erben described it as a "peaceful and good election" free of significant security incidents and said he believed turnout had been high, although election observers said it appeared fewer had voted than in last year's presidential election, which saw a 70-percent turnout.

A huge security operation was mounted to protect voters, involving 100,000 troops, about 20,000 from a US-led force and 10,000 Nato-led peacekeepers, after more than 1,000 people died in violence in the months ahead of the election.

The deaths included seven candidates and six poll workers.

The $159 million polls were part of an international plan to restore democracy after US-led forces overthrew the Taliban in 2001 and followed October presidential polls won by Karzai.

In the 249-seat national assembly, 68 seats are reserved for women and election officials said there appeared to have been a high turnout of women in some conservative areas where their participation had been in doubt. *Reuters*



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Fuel of the future

EDITORIAL

AS THE PRICE OF INTERNATIONAL CRUDE OIL inched closer to $70 a barrel last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a number energy conservation measures to soften the impact of a developing oil crisis. "This is not a simple test of our resiliency but a real challenge to economic survival," she said.

Yet the crisis should not have come as a great surprise. Everyone who cared enough to give it a thought would have realize that the world's supply of fossil fuels could not last forever.

Neither was the crisis completely unpreventable. Conservation measures and environment-friendly, renewable, indigenous, alternative energy sources have been there for the tapping and the taking. Since the 1970s, there have been intermittent calls to lessen the country's dependence on oil. But no administration gave them serious consideration.

Even today, there still seems to be no real serious or orchestrated, high-impact program to address the crisis. For instance, while the administration has announced reductions in energy consumption in government offices and the fielding of a team to ensure compliance, the fleets of gas-guzzling cars that congressmen and other public officials ride to work or to ferry their families to malls and vacation resorts have not diminished.

The country has to come up with more than stopgap measures to address the crisis. And such an enterprise will entail the resolve and cooperation of all sectors, Congress not the least among them.

Car and planes in Brazil are now running on ethanol—100 percent or mixed with gasoline or diesel. Other fuel-hungry economies are following in Brazil's footsteps. According to Newsweek, the United States now uses 2 percent ethanol and wants to expand its use. The European Union is eyeing biofuels for 6 percent of its fuel needs. South Korea and Japan are importing ethanol from Brazil. Thailand is constructing over a dozen facilities to extract ethanol from sugar cane and rice husks. And China has joined more than 30 countries building ethanol facilities and growing crops from which ethanol can be extracted.

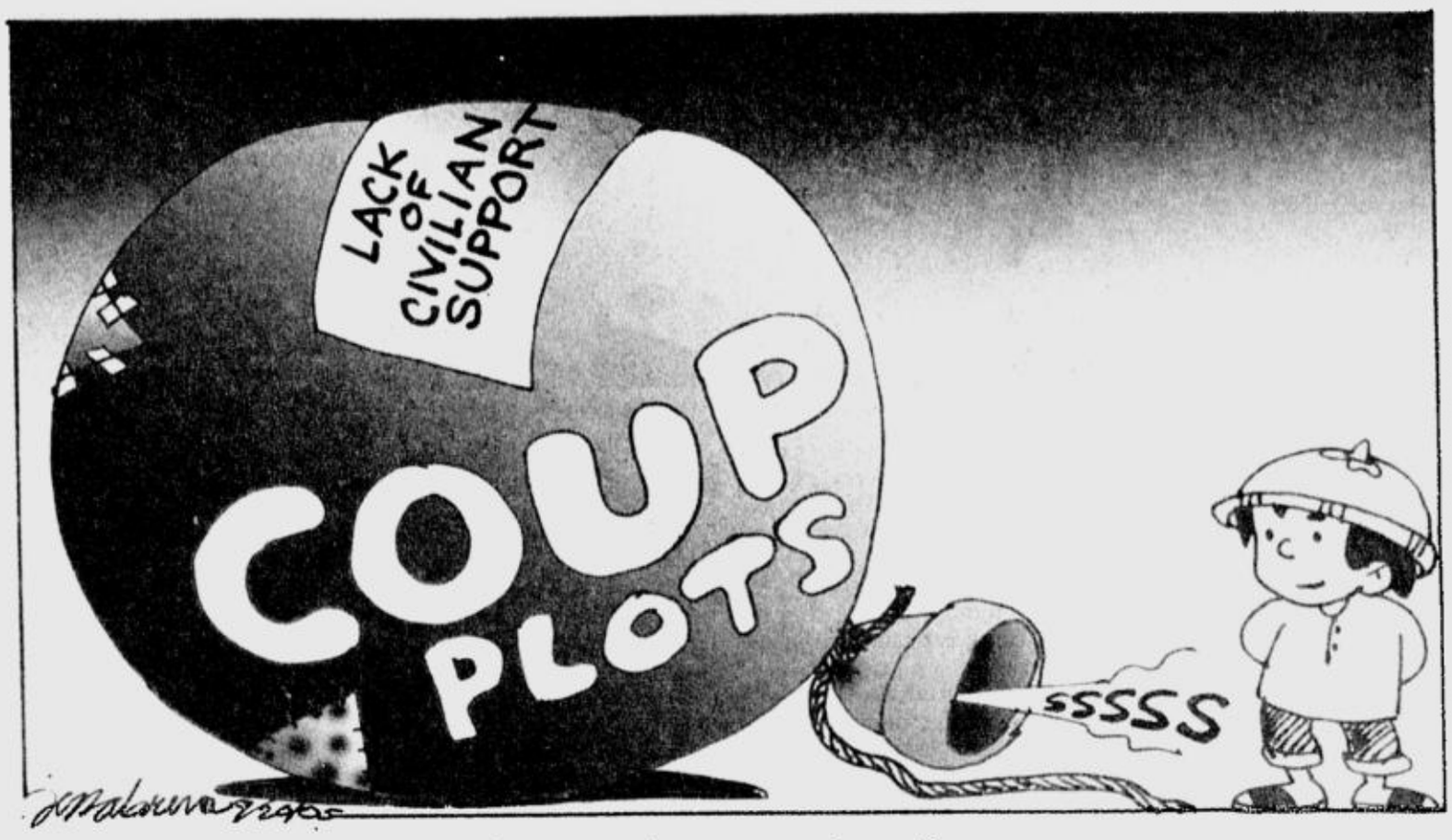
It is not just the dwindling reserves and the increasing prices of oil that have made the use of alternative fuels imperative and urgent. There are also environmental concerns over the extensive use of the highly polluting oil. Not only that, biofuels, which are extracted from plant oils or animal fats, can be produced by almost every country in the world (unlike oil which can only be produced by the few countries where it can be found), and thus can create jobs in economically lethargic agricultural areas. Brazil, the No. 1 producer of ethanol—definitely a cleaner, renewable alternative fuel—"is revolutionizing both the countryside and the auto industry," Newsweek says.

But as usual we are lagging behind, both in terms of promoting the use of ethanol and other biofuels and their local production. True, a couple of small oil companies have announced plans to import ethanol and market it locally. Also, one local company is setting up an ethanol plant in Negros. But these attempts to include biofuels in our energy mix amount to little more than a drop in the bucket.

The country consumes 345,000 barrels of oil per day. It has been estimated that for transportation alone, which accounts for 58 percent of our oil consumption, our annual oil bill amounts to P170 billion. That amount is nothing to sneeze at. If local ethanol producers can be assured of just 10 percent of that market, there may be a lot more interest in investing in ethanol plants and the crops that would supply their needs.

Bukidnon Rep. Miguel Zubiri is looking in that direction. Last month, he filed a bill that seeks to jump-start the ethanol develop program. He has been quoted as saying the program would seek to expand the use of ethanol to 10 percent of the transportation sector's fuel requirements within five years. He has also been talking about establishing at least 27 ethanol factories in different sites across the country, at a cost of P1 billion each.

The details of the Zubiri plan still need to be fleshed out. For instance: What incentives or assistance will an ethanol producer get? Will he be assured of a market even if oil prices go down? How can the welfare of consumers be balanced against the need to make investments in biofuels attractive? But at least someone in Congress is thinking about the oil crisis and proposing one very promising solution. It's time others contributed to the effort.



Backward into the future

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

NO OTHER PROVINCE MARKS, AS CEBU does, Press Freedom Week. Come the third week of September, the Cebu media set aside fierce competition to mark together in unique ceremonies the occasion when martial law shackled, 33 years ago, liberty of expression.

"Slavery was the price tag for democratic survival…Ferdinand Marcos told us that fateful night," their 1998 pooled editorial recalled. "Revisiting (this) 'enforced unanimity of the graveyard' can be useful."

"Salvage victims and massive corruption … underscored the awesome penalty exacted when propagandists masquerade as journalists," was the shared view of five dailies, 34 radio and eight TV stations. "Today, far too many take freedom of the press as a constitutional given, 'constant as the northern star.'"

The week's activities range from forums on professional issues, journalism films, exhibits, an opening Mass, preceded by a freedom walk, plus socials. Pooled editorials are a fixture.

At the Fernan-Cebu Press Center, the 2005 sessions will cover press councils, radio commentator murders to strained government-media relations. "Three Prisms On A Troubled Craft" has an editor, a foreign correspondent and a priest assess this complex calling.

A review of past Press Freedom Weeks reflects concerns of newsmen who cover this major metropolis.

Hoodwinking is widespread where power seekers, on front pages and prime time, besiege brittle institutions, noted "An Itch to Stampede," Tuesday's pooled editorial. Targets include the presidency, the military, the Church and local governments.

Parrot-like replays of bogus claims by power seekers flub ethical standards and spawn scandal frenzies. "This erodes our most critical asset: credibility." The editorial quoted INQUIRER columnist Solita Monsod: "I want no part of what has to be called the lynch-mob mentality that seems to grip this nation...and media is partly to blame."

"Accuracy + balance + completeness + detachment + ethics = fairness" is how Freedom Forum puts the issue. Media must hone their ability to set off patently false public statements with facts and context. "Otherwise, politicians will continue to dupe us."

Value-rooted competence is a constant theme. "Smell the demographics," an earlier commentary suggested. "They tell (us)….a new generation of journalists are moving up the geriatric escalator into key policy posts here. Many are post-martial law baby-boomers. A number are women. Some are better trained than their elders.

"It's also a generation that wonders aloud: In journalism as in other professions, moral shabbiness exudes pus. The stench offends. If we think otherwise, we should have our heads examined."

Restoration of liberty of expression, by people power, is a "gift with strings attached," Press Freedom Week's first editorial said. "But make no mistake about it. This is not constitutional largesse for those who carry a press card. Nor are we just complacent beneficiaries of unbridled reporting or comment."

"We are, first and last, trustees of this gift," it asserted. "As stewards, we're tasked to use the latitude this freedom provides for what is just and good."

The week offers something for the young and for the graying, the 2000 editorial, "Cathedrals Without a Soul," pointed out.

"This counterpoint is deliberate… Our young have patchy memories of the dictatorship. Few recall that ordinary citizens, massed as 'People Power' on Edsa, risked all to return liberty to them. Utang na loob unfortunately doesn't flourish in a vacuum."

But the elderly "bear scars from the trauma inflicted by the 'New Society's' censored rags and gagged stations." The week offers "a chance for quiet recommitment to this fountainhead of other liberties. Nunca Mas. Never Again."

Renewal is anchored in "the resistance set by journalists of a tougher mould": Joaquin "Chino" Roces, Teodoro Locsin Sr,. James Reuter, SJ, Jose Burgos, among others. They underscore a dog-eared but often-forgotten truism: "We journalists build on sand, if we work by values less enduring than integrity."

"Building New Cisterns," in 2003, sharply reminds journalists of their debt to forebears. Today's press "basks complacently in liberties that earlier generations of journalists fought for… (But) we drink from cisterns we never built. And we reap from vineyards we never planted."

That debt is partly paid off by unflagging dedication to daily truth-seeking—a grueling task in a society of skewed privilege. Here, "the powerful exact what they want and the poor grant what they must."

The press must perform as a fair—and perceptive—one. "Journalists who come after us will also need cisterns of press freedom. We, too, must replenish that for them."

Technology, meanwhile, radically recasts the tools—and those who work in it. E-mail and the cell phone, for example, have whittled away at the traditional face-to-face oversight that editors exercised over reporters.

"Thirty years ago, there was no Internet, no cable TV, no online newspapers, no blogs," recalls Richard Posner in his book, "Bad News." "The public's consumption of the news used to be like sucking on a straw. Now it's being sprayed like a firehose….."

Technology merely underscores the urgency of fostering value-anchored competence in a country where the needy are bought for a pair of sandals. "Affirm that dream in a time of trouble and we need not walk backward into the future."

* * *

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Legacies

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(*Conclusion*)

EVEN IN MY YOUTH, DESPITE YIELDING FOR the most part to small-town blues, I've tried to do things differently, even if it risked derision. To this day, it is a source of ironic pleasure for my high school classmates to recall that I have the dubious distinction of being the only one from Ateneo de Naga to have lost the intra-Bicol essay contest. Indeed, not just to have lost it but to have lost it big-time. I decided to write creatively about an uncreative topic (I do not even recall now what it was) remembering that the humorist Robert Benchley wrote his college thesis in Economics on fisheries from the point of view of the fish. I suffered the same fate. Benchley flunked; I finished last in the contest.

But it's that drive to experiment—call it daring or call it recklessness—that drew me to activism in the first place, like moth to a flame. Not everybody rushed into its embrace at that time, which suggests that luck is often made, accidents are inevitabilities waiting to happen. You thrust yourself into the world as much as get thrust into it. It's a matter of discovering the familiar, or recognizing the strange. I don't know how else to put it.

So you ask me: Would I have supported my wife and daughter if they were fighting for the women's vote?

Well, I suppose if they were fighting for the women's vote, they would scarcely need my support, or ask for it. They would probably be women of strong character whose support I would be glad to have in my times of adversity. Quite incidentally, less than hypothetically, my wife and two kids, a girl and a boy, were all born under the sign of the Dragon while I was born under the sign of the Rabbit. I can assure you I've known dragon's breath to singe the fur on my back.

I don't know that any hypothetical answer to your hypothetical question would really go beyond platitude. I think I'll do better answering a very real question in the here and now, which is: What are you doing to help your kids at least, girl or boy, if not your lover, woman or man, get a crack at a better future?

My answer follows from what I've narrated above.

First off, I am trying, these days almost desperately, to leave them a better world.

We are the product of our time and place. We are weighed down, or buoyed up, by the values, attitudes, and convictions or biases of our time and place. I figure I'd try to leave them one with fewer biases than I got. I may not be able to change the world for them, but I'd like to think, or hope, I may be able, along with kindred spirits of my time and place, to create the space, or refuge, or sanctuary for them to let their dreams run wild, the way activism did for me. Who knows? Maybe not just run wild but come true. Winners in competitions often say they would not have been able to look at the world from their dizzying heights if they had not stood on the shoulders of giants.

That is what I want to do for my kids: help them stand on the shoulders of giants.

There is a complement to this, or indeed a more important undertaking. It is that I am trying, these days much more hopefully, to help the next generation think for itself. I want to develop in them the capacity to question their world and themselves, to rebel against fixation and tyranny—even if they are my own.

Not the least of the reasons for this is that there are limits to the kind of world we can leave the kids. Ultimately, the best treasure we can give them is not the abundance of worldly goods, it is the hunger for knowledge. The best security we can give them is not an answering machine, it is a questioning mind. We affirm this implicitly when we strive to give our kids the best education they can get. That is far better than all the money we can put in their bank deposits, particularly if that money comes from *jueteng*, or all the insurance we can buy, particularly if that insurance comes from CAP. Leaving the kids with a good mind, apart from a good name, is the most precious legacy we can bequeath.

But there is an even bigger reason why I want my kids to develop a capacity to think for themselves. It is not just to equip them to defend themselves from the world, it is also to equip them to defend themselves from me. Or at least from my generation. I go back to the proposition I made at the beginning, which is that the hardest enemy to fight is oneself. The hardest enemy to see is oneself. It's a truism, but it's true: The rebels of yesterday are the tyrants of today.

Some very literally so. Nothing for me constitutes a bigger irony than that the same activism that taught us to question everything under the sun also demanded that we never question the cause we were espousing. Or indeed the methods it employed. To do so was to be called a revisionist, not unlike being called heretic by the Church, and suffer the same fate. That is being burned at the stake. The "killing fields" are a testament to how backward those who demand that the world move forward can become, advancing only the cause of the Holy Inquisition.

I want my kids to be able to think for themselves, to say no to what is wrong—even from me. That is not as easy as it sounds. To prove that, and as a parting shot, let me throw back your question at you. I won't ask you if you would rally behind your wife and daughter if they were fighting for the women's vote. That is easy. I will ask you instead: "If your kids were fighting for priests to have the right to marry, would you rally behind them?" "If your kids were fighting for gays, women and men, to have the right to marry, would you rally behind them?" "If your kids were fighting to have marijuana declared legal, would you rally behind them?"

Who knows? Maybe if I'm doing the right thing today, one of my grandchildren will be standing here 68 years from now to answer those questions.

'Democracy is not about who shouts the loudest'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A US EMBASSY INTELLIGENCE REPORT ON the Philippine situation last April, as reported last Sunday in this newspaper, was off tangent in several parts. The embassy official who wrote it must have talked to the wrong persons and accessed the wrong sources. For one thing, he obviously misread the Philippine military's psyche. Had he paused and made a deeper analysis of Edsa I and II, and even the so-called failed "Edsa III" of May 1, 2001, he would have sensed the folly of his assessment. He would have realized that a more profound reason of national significance must exist for even a part of the AFP to seriously consider moving against duly-constituted authority.

* * *

The report also said that a declaration of emergency rule by GMA would sufficiently rouse the military to move, as it is against the suppression of citizens' rights. Anyone in this country would know that such declaration would be received with hostility principally by the leftists and militant elements in the Church and civil society. But the military could find such a declaration convenient and helpful in fighting its traditional leftist enemies who have become quite aggressive in the military and political fields.

Then, too, the report gave undue credit to armed non-military groups which she supposedly could mobilize in case the military goes against her. I'm afraid the report paid too much credence to the earlier threat by some governors to secede from the republic in case GMA was ousted.

* * *

One possible consequence of this April 2005 US Embassy report falling into the hands of opposition leaders was to encourage them in their efforts to topple GMA and grab power for themselves. Given our colonial mentality, they probably believed the assessment that the climate was ripe for her ouster. Thus, the grand conspiracy against GMA that they had been planning for years now got the green light. Within two months, the opposition began simultaneous hearings of the *jueteng* scandal in the Senate (triggered by a resolution filed by Senate President Franklin Drilon) and the Garci tapes in the House, under full coverage by national TV, radio and print.

The tipping point was planned for that Friday in July, with four widely publicized demands for GMA's resignation by the Hyatt 10, former President Cory Aquino, Drilon and his LP faction, and a sector of the Makati Business Club. Failing to oust GMA, as her sympathizers rallied around her, the opposition resorted to street demonstrations and high-pressure tactics in the media to unseat her. But unable to gather respectable crowds outside of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's *hakot* and the groups carrying red flags, the opposition turned to impeachment which it had earlier derided as useless. Three weeks later, the impeachment complaint was thrown out by the House of Representatives and today GMA remains President.

* * *

Last Saturday, this column began an analysis of how the House decided to junk the impeachment case by an overwhelming majority of 158 to 51 votes. I earlier pointed out that among the reasons was a series of blunders by the opposition. Its amended complaint was submitted a full month after the Lozano complaint, and since the Constitution prohibits the conduct of more than one impeachment proceeding within a period of one year, this late complaint was rejected by the majority. Moreover, in seeking to piggyback on the Lozano complaint, the opposition packed its own amended complaint with new and separate issues, giving the majority a reason to declare it as a separate complaint. Then, too, the opposition rejected the draft rules of the 13th Congress that would have allowed the consolidation of the two complaints.

The opposition argued that these points were "mere technicalities" invoked by the majority to keep the truth sealed. This was quite persuasive to the public, but the majority's legal eagles, among them Representatives Douglas Cagas of Davao and Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar, held their ground. The battle lines were drawn between constitutionality and the rule of law, on the one hand, and an appeal to the emotions, on the other hand.

* * *

The boorish and haughty behavior of some opposition members at times was a contrast to that of the amiable and ever-patient justice committee chair, Rep. Simeon Datumanong. When the committee was about to vote on the legality of the amended complaint, opposition members walked out, tossing paper all over the session hall. This unparliamentary behavior cost them a lot of points. The self-righteousness of some opposition leaders also didn't sit well with the majority, particularly since some of the former had their own credibility problem, having been associated closely with the discredit regimes of Presidents Marcos and Estrada, while others had skeletons in their closet.

* * *

A number of opposition lawmakers were quite articulate and adroit in manipulating public opinion, repeating in particular the questions: *Bakit natatakot sa katotohanan ang Pangulo? Kung wala siyang tinatago, bakit ayaw niyang dalhin ang kaso sa Senado?* But the bombastic rhetoric and the demagoguery couldn't convince the majority that the evidence of electoral fraud—the tampered and illegally acquired Garci tapes—was unassailable.

During the plenary voting, many congressmen denied that cheating took place in their districts. Davao Rep. Antonio Floirendo pointed out that "most of my people die without ever seeing a lawyer and they don't quote Fr. Joaquin Bernas. But they know right from wrong." The opposition had every opportunity to ventilate their case, so that "if they lost, it was their fault." He added: "Representative democracy is not about who shouts the loudest, but about following laws and principles." *(To be continued)*

Full circle in Bacolod

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MY FIRST TRIP TO BACOLOD TOOK PLACE AT the height of the "sugar crisis" in the 1980s when plummeting sugar prices plunged Negros Occidental into tremendous hardship, cutting across all social classes, including the pampered "haciendero" class, but most especially the families of sugar workers and itinerant plantation workers, known as "sagadas."

The economic and social upheaval led to armed unrest and repression, particularly in the poorest areas of the province. As staffers of the "alternative" newsweekly Veritas, we had been sent there to document not just the symptoms of the crisis, but also the first steps being taken by concerned citizens and church and civic groups to mitigate the worst effects of the crisis, as well as to address the yawning gap between the social classes, a problem that was fueling the violence and restlessness.

Another trip to Bacolod last week brought me full circle from that first trip of decades ago: I had gone there as part of the newly-revitalized Board of Trustees of the Remedios AIDS Foundation, to be oriented on "best practices" of NGO and not-for-profit board governance, meeting with board members and officers of the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation Inc.

The foundation is one of many institutions that were born of the crisis of the 1980s, founded by a group of women who had bonded with each other through decades of friendship or family ties, and decided that they would do their part to mitigate the crisis by providing access to credit to poor families.

Guided by the principles and methodology of the Grameen Bank, which was founded by Mohammed Yunus in Bangladesh, the foundation first set up Project "Dungganon," which in Ilonggo means "honorable." Through this project, the foundation reaches out to the "poorest of the poor," providing micro-credit for livelihood projects to women who would not otherwise qualify for loans from traditional sources.

* * *

AS similar projects the world over have proven, the Grameen approach works by organizing community women into "associations" or "branches" who collectively assume responsibility for all their individual loans. Payments for the loans are thus monitored and assured by social pressure, since no new loans for association members will be made available unless there is full compliance with repayment terms.

Women also comprise the vast majority of borrowers because they have proven to be more reliable borrowers than men, paying back their loans promptly and fully, and channeling their profits into growing their business and improving the health and educational status of their children.

Encouraged by the success of "Dungganon," the foundation later established Project "Kasanag" or "Light," which expanded upon the original micro-credit concept to provide larger loans for small- and medium-scale enterprises.

So far, says Dr. Cecilia del Castillo, NWTF executive director, they have reached 55,000 women, not just in Negros Occidental but also in Samar, Cebu and Palawan, and aim to soon reach 100,000 women.

Last year, the foundation chalked up another achievement, a first for an NGO in Western Visayas, by transforming itself into a Micro-Finance Thrift Bank, housed in a 2-year-old four-story building which also serves as a training center with accommodations for small groups.

* * *

"AS I keep telling the staff and the board," recounts Dr. Del Castillo, "if our intention is just to give away money, then we should just fly over the province and drop money into barrios. But that is not why we exist. We are here to build institutions, and more important to us than the economic assistance we provide, is the impact our programs have on our clients' self-esteem and self-worth."

An early study commissioned to look into the impact of their programs has determined that 20 percent of their clients are able to "climb out of poverty level" after five to seven years. "The big bulk of our clients, though remain just below the poverty level," says Dr. Del Castillo, explaining why they have decided to increase the loan ceiling to give women on the verge of making it out of a "hand-to-mouth" existence the needed boost.

"We have the track record and have proven that our clients are bankable," boasts NWTF chair Wilhelmina Gonzales. And while she admits that the foundation has had to weather rocky times, even a time when they seemed on the verge of bankruptcy, they recall that they managed to pull through with goodwill they had earned from partners who came up with timely loans to see them through.

* * *

STILL, the biggest rewards, as Dr. Del Castillo recalls, are to be found in the changes they have seen in their women clients.

"One remark that really struck me was what one woman told me: after she had successfully put up her own business, 'my husband is now beginning to listen to me.'" Others testify how their added income has allowed them to send their children to school, while another said the biggest impact of her newfound economic security was that "when I am sick, I can rest."

For sure, as even Dr. Del Castillo and Gonzales admit, the foundation has shortcomings, such as the lack of representation on the board of their clients. Other NGOs in the area have also criticized the NWTF for lack of coordination, especially in areas that are already being served by other organizations.

But overall, it would be difficult to discount the impact of the foundation's work on the lives of their women clients and consequently on their communities. Born out of crisis, the foundation is proving its commitment to development in the fullest sense of this loaded word.

The French in the Philippines (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ALTHOUGH OUR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE may not be as comprehensive as the ones with China, Spain and the United States, France was the first country to have a consul here, a certain Adolphe Barrot, in 1835. He rented a house in the district of San Miguel, beside the Pasig River, where eventually toward the end of the 19th century, a large brewery that we all know was located and took the name of the church and the district. Eventually, it relocated to Malate and then to Escolta in the same building as La Estrella del Norte which belonged to the Levy family.

At the time of Barrot' s tenure, there were less than 10 Frenchmen in the country: "two doctors, one planter (la Gironier), one trader (Vidie who eventually bought Jala-Jala from the former), one agent, Genu, one plantation manager, one gold seeker, and one military man in the service of Spain. In 1843, there was a carriage-maker who did very well; in 1847, a band master who left his ship to supervise the music of the Manila Garrison, and in 1853, an engineer, R Gabaud, was awarded the Legion of Honor for building the first suspension bridge in the country." By 1857, their number had grown to 26, with 20 living in Manila, two in Iloilo, one in Cebu, one in Jala-Jala, one on Negros Island, and one in Camarines Province. In 1891, there were seven jewelers, a drapes-maker, a dressmaker and three professors.

You'd be amused to learn that the ladies wanted a French couture house to be established in Manila and that the three jewelers, the Ullmans, Greilsammers and Levys, "struck it rich…through Mexican piaster-smuggling, the sale of French perfume imitations and flooding of cheap German goods under the French label."

In May 11, 1805, Captain Motard of the ship Semillante, while escorting a galleon to Acapulco, was forced into combat with a British cruiser, Phaeton, and a brig, Harrier, in San Jacinto Bay (Ticao Island Albay). With the help of the parish priest and the people, he succeeded in subduing the enemy but lost four men with 10 others wounded. Upon leaving, he presented the priest with 12 guns and 200 pounds of gun powder. The priest was also invited to the burial of one of the soldiers who died. Engraved in copper over his tomb in the church was an inscription: "Francois Gois, ensign of the frigate Semillante, led by Captain Motard, officer of the Legion of Honor, killed in battle, which this frigate of 36 cannon fought against a British frigate of 44 and a corvette of 20 cannonade … in San Jacinto of Ticao, of the Philippine Islands, on 14 Thermidor Year XIII. His body lies here and his comrades offered this token of their memories and regrets."

And if that church has not been remodeled beyond recognition by some zealous and ignorant parish priest or felled by an earthquake or gutted by fire, Ensign Gois' bones should still be lying beneath his inscription under this foreign sky.

I did say I wasn't going to dwell on Gironiere since many of you are already familiar with his book, "Vingt Annees aux Philippines" (1853), except to mention two things. One is that he left the Philippines in 1836 after a series of misfortunes where he lost his first daughter, his wife, his son and his brother. He returned to the Philippines in 1857 where he managed the sugar plantation of the Roxases in Calauang (Laguna). Apropos of nothing but curiosity, in connection with Calauang, in the church is a marble sepulchral tablet with an inscription to a lady with the surname Punzalan Vda. De Roxas. Since her name does not appear in the genealogical tree of the present-day Makati Roxases, could she be from the Hidden Valley Roxases?

Discouraged by a policy that wasn't particularly friendly to foreign investors (during the entire period of Spanish domination, there was never a French bank, their consuls had no jurisdiction over their nationals and there were numerous impediments to trade; to be fair, other foreigners had difficulties as well), the French also regarded natural calamities as another drawback. In 1880, an earthquake leveled agricultural developer Daillard's enterprise as well as the consul's residence. The latter reported that his furniture which may have had some value once "no longer has any."

The following year, a cyclone tore off the roof of the French consulate and shattered doors and windows. The consul sat on a pile of furniture writing his report. "I camp here," he wrote, "as if in the field of battle. . ."

The cholera epidemic that broke out in the same year claimed 100,000 victims, including the American consul and 10 French nationals. A scandal swept through the small foreign community in 1890 when the consul Nodot died in office, leaving behind a debt of 27 piastres and 300 unpaid empty bottles of wine!

The opinions of various French observers also make interesting reading. Here is Lavolee's take: "From the purely material point of view, are the Spanish friars not correct to say that the inhabitants of the Philippines are the happiest beings in the world?"

That was more than a hundred years ago. And Time Magazine recently reported the same thing: we're still the happiest idiots in the world. Nobody's attributing it to the fact that we might be laughing because it's too painful to cry.

(Data from Denis Nardin's thesis, "France and the Philippines," 1974.)

European lessons

YOUNG BLOOD

Theresa A. O. Esteban

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I LEFT MANILA IN OCTOBER 2004 TO STUDY IN EUROPE for one year. I was excited about the trip since it was the first time I would be living alone, without my mom and dad, my siblings and my dogs.

The day I arrived in Rotterdam, I immediately felt at home. It was so very much like Makati or Ortigas Center that I thought I wouldn't feel anything different. But while Rotterdam is one of those busy cities bustling with activity during the day, unlike Manila where the night likewise becomes as busy, it finitely goes to sleep. Although there are clubs, bars and pubs, it is not the same as either Makati or Malate at night. Makati, Malate, Timog and Libis come alive at 9 p.m. when the happy hour begins and throb with life until the wee hours of morning.

Studying abroad is a true test of one's character, faith and stamina. I came to Holland wearing rose colored glasses. Seeing some things for the first time, being thrown into a diverse mix of culture and values, especially in my international course which has 74 students of 26 different nationalities and 101 extreme personalities, I said to myself this was going to be a great learning experience.

I studied in a school that also had American students. When I went to graduate school, I had German, Nepalese and Italian classmates. My mom trains and teaches foreign students, and I grew up meeting her students in functions and gatherings. As an adult, I have worked with Aussies, Americans, Kiwis, Britons and Germans. The first Dutch friend I had was a guy who worked with my mom in a training seminar for Indian participants. He wore funny Sesame Street socks and he gave me a pair. So, I thought that it would not make any difference if I had so many people of different nationalities for classmates.

I have a strong faith and I am level-headed, but when St. Augustine said that man is innately good, he had not heard about our class.

My first three months was a roller-coaster ride. I got homesick from time to time, but I amused myself by going out with friends and attending parties whenever I could. Since I have had a sheltered life, I learned to trust other people and believed everyone to be my friend.

But soon the differences started to kick in. At first I thought that their seemingly brusque manner had to do with the language. But after three months, I knew it was more than that. When I started to complain to friend, who happens to be a priest, he told me the honeymoon was over.

Until then I didn't know that like snakes, people molt. I am quite tolerant. For a time, I tried to put to good use my training in psychology in an effort to understand them. The exercise led me to realize where they were coming from, but that still did not justify their actions and attitude toward other people. I became convinced that the problem was not being caused by their inability to carry on a proper discourse but by some basic character defect. We have colleagues who are not really very refined in their language but still they don't sound insolent. And so I said goodbye to tolerance.

I don't regret coming here. I love Holland. It is a beautiful country and the Dutch (or most of them, anyway) are a nice and kind people. I have two great Dutch friends with whom I can discuss almost anything, and I know a Dutch family I can always rely on. I am greatly indebted to the Dutch government for giving me the opportunity to study here.

In the past months, I have learned more about life and people. I have learned that sincerity does not always get repaid, and that the only person you can really count on is yourself.

I have also learned that friends should be carefully chosen. It is hard to get hurt by so-called friends when you are away from home and you do not have a shoulder to cry on. But if you do find friends, take care of them and love them for they can be surrogate family.

Finally, I have learned to fight back. Asians are said to be submissive. There may be some truth to that, given the many centuries we had been colonized. But sometimes other people mistake our warmth and politeness for submissiveness. It is hard for us to be brutally frank since we don't want to hurt other people's feelings. But when push comes to shove, we know how to fight back.

Certainly absence has made my heart grow fonder of Manila and the Philippines in general. Understanding my colleagues' behavior and where they are coming from has made me realize how lucky I am to grow up in a happy and peace-loving society. I feel proud when colleagues and professors from different countries refer to our People Power revolution as a true example of an empowered society and a peaceful revolution.

Studying in a different country has made me appreciate more my culture and my upbringing. I don't need to be loud and rude to assert myself. I know what I am capable of achieving. The society where I come from has already given me the opportunity to enrich myself as a person and as a professional. It has already given me security.

Studying in Holland has also made me feel proud of being Asian, seeing how my Asian colleagues can be so good and artistic in their presentations, how fast they can calculate financial and economic stuff, how good they are with computers, and most especially how good they are as friends.

Living in Holland has also made me dream of the time when the Philippines will become another Asian tiger. Holland had humble beginnings, but is now wealthier than many of its bigger neighbors. Maybe the Philippines cannot leap right away to the status of an Asian tiger, but we can be one of Southeast Asia's more progressive countries.

My stay here has given me the opportunity to work on a development project in the Philippines. I have very high hopes that my project will work and that I will finally realize my dream of helping the country that I love.

My experiences so far have left me with a bittersweet taste, but they were still very enriching.

Theresa A. O. Esteban, 28, is a student in urban planning and is enrolled at Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Church shares blame for poverty

WHY IS IT THAT THE MAJORITY of our people are poor? Why is it that the majority suffer in extreme poverty and destitution despite the fact that we are blessed abundantly with natural resources?

While I agree that the unjust economic and political system is to be blamed for our nation's present condition, I do not deny that religion is partly to blame. Let us try to take a look at our Church's teaching, specifically on holiness: "Be holy as your Heavenly Father is holy."

Our Church officials seem to consider this teaching as central and paramount. More emphasis is given to religious piety as if prayer, worship and devotion are all there is to holiness. No wonder, in our liturgical celebration, the externals (the decoration and the singing) are given more importance.

This kind of "holiness" was practiced even before Jesus' time. During the time of Moses, the Jews, in order to fulfill the call to holiness, had to see to it that the animals intended for sacrifice were absolutely clean. All these behaviors were prompted by their fear of Yahweh. It was fear that moved them to conduct such rituals. A kind of fear that unfortunately causes us to do the same today. That is why we feel contented and satisfied once we fulfill our Sunday obligation, never mind if we are corrupt and unkind to our fellowmen.

I think it's time to change the emphasis. It is no longer: "Be holy as your Heavenly Father is holy," but "Be compassionate as your Heavenly Father is compassionate." This paradigm shift was made by Jesus. Sad to say, our religious leaders are not following in His footsteps. They have the "news" but they do not have the "good."

What matters now is compassion, the new and Jesus' emphasis. Jesus abrogated the old because it promoted greed, indifference and self-centeredness, whereas the new enhances peace, brotherhood and love. And the new is near to the spirit of the Kingdom, the core of our Christian life. After all, we are called to follow Jesus, to become compassionate. If only all people were like God, meaning, compassionate, our world would become a beautiful world to dwell in.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

The call to compassion is boundless, unlimited and unconditional. And compassion is what God exemplifies. He is a God full of compassion. Let us only remember his words, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do unto me."

This word of Jesus is telling us that salvation is not banking on our being a member of a particular church. We can only be saved if we are compassionate to our brothers and sisters, especially those in need. Regretfully, most of us prefer to show holiness rather than exercise compassion, the result of which we now see in the form of violence, war, bloodshed and senseless death.

—FR. RUFINO PEPOYE CABATINGAN,
St. Rita Parish, Gingoog City

Meralco's rate increase

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER, titled "Meralco's new petition for rate increase," from Pete Ilagan. (PDI, 9/8/05)

Since 1990, Meralco had only two basic rate increases:

1. A provisional 18.4-centavo increase (in February 1994) which was reduced to 1.7 centavos following the November 2002 Supreme Court decision.
2. In June 2003, when the ERC acted on Meralco's consolidated rate increase and unbundling petitions. The last increase granted in 2003 was based on Meralco's rate base and expenses in 2000 and an asset valuation at P40.081:$1, around 30 percent lower than the prevailing peso-dollar exchange rate.

The 113.5-percent increase in Meralco charges from 1990 to 2005 is lower than the increases in the prices of petroleum products (343 to 503 percent), telephone service (259 percent), and bus fares (498 percent). Even if the P0.1476 per kWh increase Meralco is applying for is factored in, the 142-percent increase in Meralco charges will still be lower vis-à-vis other basic goods and services.

The increases in electricity charges over the years were largely due to increases in generation and transmission rates. The generation charge is a pass-through charge, of which not a single centavo goes to Meralco. Meralco charges (combined distribution, supply, metering and Cera) account for less than 20 percent of the average Meralco bill.

It should be understood that Meralco's contracts with the IPPs (typical to most IPP contracts, including Napocor's) have both fixed and variable cost components. Sourcing power solely from Napocor does not free Meralco from paying the fixed costs attendant to these contracts. That is the reason why Meralco has pushed for the dispatch of the IPPs at no less than contract levels. A lower generation cost is achieved if the fixed cost is spread over a greater number of kWhs, thus resulting to lower rates for consumers.

The P4.4080 per kWh Napocor rate cited by Ilagan is the average Luzon grid rate and differs from the average TOU rate reflected in Napocor's billing to Meralco. It also does not include various adjustments that were included in Napocor's bill to Meralco. The resulting average generation cost from these sources was P4.74 per kWh, to which was added the ERC-approved amortization of deferred generation charges, resulting to the P4.9380 per kWh generation charge reflected in customers' bills.

Let's now compare Napocor's and the IPPs' generation and transmission charges. The IPPs charge only P4.65 per kWh compared to Napocor's P4.83 per kWh which was included in the August 2005 generation charge. The transmission charge of IPP-supplied power (54 centavos per kWh) is likewise much lower than Napocor's P1.28 per kWh or a 74-centavo difference. Combining the generation and transmission charges, the IPPs' total amounts to P5.19 per kWh against Napocor's P6.11 per kWh for a difference of P0.92 per kWh.

—ELPI O. CUNA JR.,
vice president and director,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City

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If we can't be early, let's be on time

IT SEEMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT has finally awakened from deep slumber.

Recent news reveal that certain projects and laws seeking to solve our problems on air, water and land pollution are finally in the implementation stage. One of these is Republic Act 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999.

It has been reported that, in pursuance of that law, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor recently issued a set of rules qualifying certain projects—which involve such activities as "(1) air quality monitoring, reporting or management, including the purchase and maintenance of equipment; (2) public awareness campaigns on air quality; (3) research on air pollution-related issues; (4) capacity-building on air quality management; (5) roadside apprehensive/emission testing; and (6) administration and management of the Airshed Governing Board"—for grants from the Air Quality Management Fund (AQMF).

Also included in this set of rules are certain directions and guidelines for the submission of proposals to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

I appreciate the government's actions on matters relating to environmental pollution. It is good to hear that projects meant to address environmental problems are now finally being funded by the government.

But why only now? Why is it that the government is starting only now to implement a law which was passed six years ago? I just hope that with the environment secretary's order, we will see an honest-to-goodness implementation of the Clean Air Act. Yes, it is better late than never, but if we can't be early for once, can't we be on time at least?

—MARIA VICTORIA ORTIZ,
5 Gardenia St.,
Cainta Greenpark Vill.,
Cainta, Rizal

FRESHLY CUT logs being transported to a sawmill PDI PHOTO

'Tsunamis from the mountains'

THIS REFERS TO THE ARTICLE "DENR allows resumption of Aurora logging." (PDI, 8/25/05) The move of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to allow the resumption of logging operations in recently devastated areas like Aurora Province is downright callous and short-sighted.

Instead of preserving what is left of our country's decimated forests, the DENR, with its weak forest law enforcement program, has once again failed to protect our natural resources. This shows the administration's lack of genuine concern for the environment and its vague short-sighted vision for national development.

The Aurora and Quezon Province disasters of 2004 and the other major calamities in the past, such as the Ormoc tragedy, are continuing reminders that we must save our forests which serve as the only effective barrier against strong winds, heavy rains, and landslides. Continuous logging—both legal and illegal—severely compromises the natural carrying capacity of the forests to provide protection from natural calamities.

An average of 500 lives are lost every year due to typhoons. This figure more than doubled in the November-December 2004 floods and landslides in Aurora and Quezon. Ten times that number perished in the Ormoc tragedy, which also occurred in the month of November in 1991. These numbers and other "devastation" statistics, such as damage to property and infrastructure, will most likely increase as the frequency and strength of typhoons increase due to the combined effects of the El Niño and La Niña climate phenomena.

The government cannot justify the resumption of logging operations as a positive step toward economic development. Deforestation of the country's remaining forests will only lead to more poverty. The purported revenues from logging and logging trade cannot compensate for the long-term devastation of the environment which sustains life.

The disastrous 2004 floods and landslides in Aurora and Quezon provinces will certainly not be the last of their kind. Greenpeace believes that the first crucial step to reverse the vicious cycle of destruction and calamity must be to protect what is left of our country's forests. Unless the government acts now to implement a nationwide total log ban, "tsunamis from the mountains" will remain a constant threat to the 20 million Filipinos living in and around mountain areas.

—VON HERNANDEZ,
campaign director,
Greenpeace Southeast Asia,
c/o gduran@ph.greenpeace.org

Libingan ng mga Bayani is not for Marcos

GEN. BASILIO VALDEZ, THE chief of staff of the Philippine Army during World War II and my co-alumnus and tennis partner in San Beda College, Manila, will rise up from his grave if I keep my long silence about former President Ferdinand Marcos, particularly regarding the proposed transfer of his remains to the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Indeed, it would be better to bury his body in his hometown in the Ilocos. If he were buried in Libingan's sacred ground, all the heroes now resting there would seek transfer to other burial places.

May I mention that Gen. Romeo Espino and I were wounded in combat when we volunteered to undertake an intelligence mission for Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the Battle of Bataan. I have to mention my confidential wartime camaraderie with Espino, hence, I am in the know about the questionable activities of Marcos which were known to Espino.

Perhaps the Lord kept me alive after escaping the Death March to expose Marcos' false heroism during World War II.

—MEDARDO T. JUSTINIANO,
colonel, Inf. (ret.),
31st Division, United States Armed Forces in the Far East,
PO Box 217851,
GMF, Guam 96921

INQUIRER

Your message to Manny Pacquiao?

in dis period of chaos in our country, you were able to lift our spirits, and once again made us proud to be called Filipinos. Thank you!
—cj barrera, 18, *Las Piñas*

pgsumOntok c Manny,... Pacquiao silang lahat!! Congrats!!
—bryan parreñas, 22, *Iloilo*

prayer works 2gedr w ur determination & talent, congra2lations! Luv ur family, theyr ur success!
—Veronica del Tremedal, 53

give thanks 2 d Lord in vctOry or defeat. Surrender ur lyf 2 d Lord, and ask that His will be —done in ur life. MABUHAY!
—tricia pribhdas, 42, *qc*

manNy pacquiao: ur a great hoNor 4 our country.. amidst d political crisis, u boxEd ur way 2 bring pridE to our cOuntry.
—luz pascual, 40, *naga city*

Congrats! Prepare for the big fight. As early as now, learn to manage your money for the rainy days to come.
—marco bernardo, *baguio city*

you are among the reasons we're still proud 2 be PINOYS!

Paglumalaban ka, manalo o matalo man, nagkakaisa ang mga kababayan mo. In this troubled times in our country, u make us proud 2 be FILIPINOS!
—raul diaz, 28, *las piñas*

be wise enough on how to spend ur winnings, be brilliant abt this, than in all ur fights.
Look at where Lando is now.
—Ted Benitez, *cavite city*

sana manny, ma-manage nyo ni jenny ang money mo. yoko makita kang maghirap gaya ng iba. Save. Save. Save. Tx me. Ingat
—alma dela cerna, 33, *dipolog*

when i saw u doing a sign of d cross while fighting i realized u embody the true Filipino trait, faith in God, in great adversity. Manny, we know that only GOD can heal our land, but u are amongst his tool for the country's oneness. God bless!
—Raul Diaz, 28, *las piñas*

My message 4 Manny Pacquiao, dat HE remain HUMBLE inspite of d FAME he'S ENJOYING now. It's a GIFT frm God.
—James, Philip Narisma, 39, *iloilo*

Congrats idol! U can dedicate ur victory 2 ur family, u give honor to our country, you make every Filipino proud.
—Edgardo s. Maligat, 45, *manila*

Do you agree with the majority vote in the House of Representatives that upheld the Justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against President Arroyo?

i dOnt agree!! What mOre dey need 2 prOve?, inamin na nga nya na sa knya ung bOses sa tpe, nasaan na ang katarungan sa atin?
—Pepsi, 21, paranas, *samara*

No. Technical rules should be set aside when an issue is of transcendental importance to the majority of the population.
—rico mambo, 30, *naga city*

NO! Bcoz alam nman ntin na nandaya ang presidente dahil sa humingi sya ng tawad sa madla & ngayon si Garci nawawala..
—Melvin jasper r. Galicia, 29, *naga city*

NO! Bec. hindi naging fair ang votation dahil marami ang hindi nagvote, sna naman manindigan ang mga hindi dumalo sa kongreso.
—Zenaida caguioa, *urdaneta city*

No, i don't agree! Where is due process?, the administration thinks only 4 deir own good, where is the revelation of truth?
—Agerico Banding, 26, *urdaneta city*

Your thoughts on the death of Haydee Yorac?

A profound sense of personal loss, her honesty and integrity was so palpable that even FRODO BAGGINS can expect that.
—Dr. Eugene pet, 29, *iloilo*

Ms. Haydee Yorac is an asset to our country kasi ni-yuyurakan nya ang mga masasamang gawain sa ating gobyernO.
—Jane Callao, 30, *cagayan de oro city*

Una si Roco, ngayon si Yorac. Ba't sila pa ang kinuha, hindi yung iba dyan?
—Albert, *Paranaque*

Raul Roco died. Haydee Yorac died. Maybe to let us know how important they are! Too painful a price.
—alvin a. truya, 30, *cebu city*

My U.P. LAW classmate, Heidi, found marital bliss in serving her countrymen with her integrity & beauty from within!
—Atty. Hernan Correa, 66, *pitogo, quezon*

Sana sa pagkamatay ni mdam haydee, may kapalit na tulad nya, kaysa ung nakaupo ngayon sa malakanyang.
—Yvone, *dagupan city*

the death of my idol, mam HAYDEE YORAC, this makes me cry.
-former PCGG Chair.
(who worked years for d recovery of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth); Human Rights Lawyer.
Public Servant.
(She revealed Corruption among some of the powerfuL in government, and the pressure being put on her.
But she fought On!).
Nationalist.
Law Professor.
Superwoman! :)
Teacher.
Kakaiyak naman. This makes me cry...
Please say a prayer, for the late mam Haydee Yorac, idol !! MUCH LOVED, Admired, and RESPECTED courageous warrior for Freedom and Justice!
My heart bleeds on the passing away of mam Haydee....
May the angeLs guide you ho, as you journey onward and beyond....
Just please follow the light...
Follow the light.
as you have ALWAYS done so.
—Mai, *Makati city*

her passing is really a great loss for our country. She exemplifies what a true public servant should be—virtuous.
—benjie atutubo, 37, *legazpi city*

Sad that such a light is gone.
Dread that such
a light can't burst in2 congress.
Sad that such
a light is gone.
—rene locsin, *QC*

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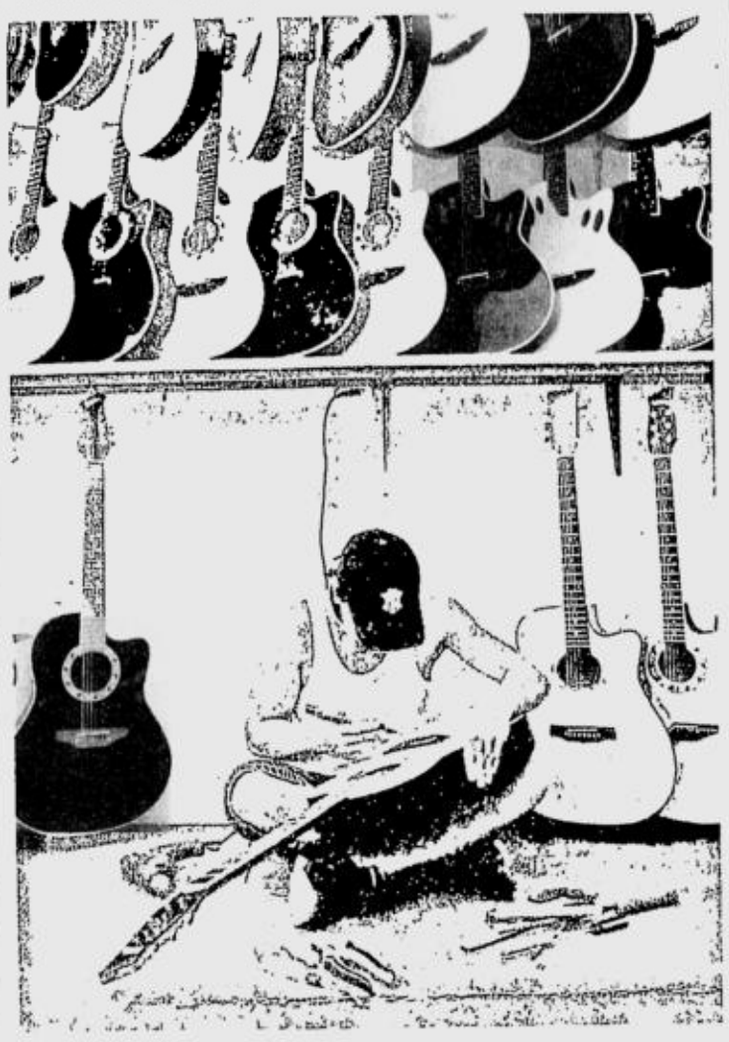
Hagedorn next to be called to Senate



GUITAR MAKER LYN RILLON

Thirty eight-year-old Sandy Panganiban from Guagua, Pampanga, has been making and repairing guitars for the past 20 years.

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE SENATE INVESTIGATION of "jueteng" operations is not over and done with yet and the next man on the seat is President Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-jueteng czar, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Sen. Manuel Villar, the inquiry committee co-chair, said.

"I want to know about this Hagedorn. He's saying many things about this new game. I want to know what this is all about," Villar said, referring to the mayor's proposal to revive the small town lottery (STL).

"Plus, I also want to understand what really is his version," Villar said of Hagedorn's so-called success in being able to stop jueteng that has grown into a P13-billion-a-year industry mainly in Luzon.

The mayor, a confessed former jueteng protector, beat the Sept. 15 deadline the President had set in eradicating the game suspected of funding her victory in the May 10, 2004 elections.

Villar, interviewed in Angeles City after the tribute on Sunday night for San Fernando Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, considered the investigation not closed.

"There have been many hearings *pero hindi pa ako tapos eh*. We will give our recommendations when we are done. We are not done yet," he said, adding it was the same for the probe on the raid by the police and the military on the apartment of document analyst Segundo Tabayoyong, a witness of former Sen. Loren Legarda in her electoral protest against Vice President Noli de Castro, in San Mateo, Rizal, last month.

He said he was also going to call for the resumption of the jueteng probe if new witnesses would come forward.

Villar gave no date on when Hagedorn would face the committee.

Staunch anti-jueteng crusader, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, lauded the mayor for stopping the underground lottery but expressed dismay about the government's inability to arrest and prosecute any of the jueteng financiers.

Hagedorn had credited his feat on the cooperation and commitment of local executives in gambling hotspots.

He said they had also agreed to his plan to reintroduce STL that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office halted when the game became a convenient cover for jueteng operations during the Aquino administration.

Hagedorn said STL was similar to jueteng only that the former was legal.

Cruz disapproved of Hagedorn's plan to replace jueteng with other forms of gambling including EZ2, which the PCSO also runs.

In Pampanga, EZ2 is said to be ran through bookies. That means that bets for the government-run lottery were being collected by unauthorized agents from the ranks of displaced jueteng collectors.

A P10-bet, the minimum amount that is wagered on EZ2, gets a P4,000 prize for the winning two-number combination.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fire stalls trip to Cebu of ship with 620 passengers

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—FIRE BROKE OUT in one of the engines of a passenger vessel shortly before midnight on Sunday, about 10 nautical miles from the port of Tagbilaran City in Bohol.

No one was injured among the 620 passengers and 80 crew members of the MV Our Lady of Fatima of the Cebu Ferries Corp., said Philippine Coast Guard Central-Eastern Visayas District Commander Commodore Ramon Liwag.

MV Our Lady of Fatima left from Ozamiz City port at 7 p.m. on Sunday, said Edgardo Nicolas, Cebu coordinator of the Aboitiz Transport System Corporation, the mother company of Cebu Ferries.

The vessel, he said, was supposed to arrive at Pier 4 in Cebu City at 7 a.m. yesterday but it developed "technical problem" at about 11:25 p.m.

"There was smoke coming out from the engine room. Our crewmen were able to control the situation immediately," Nicolas said.

The vessel continued with its voyage even with one engine, although it was running at a speed of 7 knots, instead of the usual 17 knots.

Nicolas said the passengers were provided food for their breakfast and lunch yesterday.

Liwag said he ordered the deployment of their rescue vessel BRP Pampanga with divers and firefighters on board to escort the vessel while it was sailing to Cebu City.

He said they just wanted to make sure that help would immediately come in case the second engine would develop problems.

ROUNDUP

2 students drown in Lake Sebu

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Two students drowned while seven others swam to safety when the banca they were riding in capsized in Lake Sebu in T'boli, South Cotabato on Friday. South Cotabato police chief Senior Supt. Getulio Napeñas said the victims were junior students of the Sta. Cruz Mission High School, who went boating on the lake. Napeñas said the boat was overloaded as all of nine students boarded it. Those killed did not know how to swim.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Abducted' minors rescued

CALAMBA CITY—Four minors who were allegedly abducted by their own father three years ago were rescued by Laguna police and officials of the local social welfare agency in an operation inside a subdivision in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on Wednesday. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said the rescued children—Meg Rhizon Bautista, 8, and her brothers Patrick, 4, Bernard, 13, and Rex, 14—were found inside a house in a subdivision in Barangay Gatid here at about 10 p.m. Police arrested a certain Yodelyn, said to be the mistress of the children's father Bernard Bautista. Verzosa said the children's mother, Susana Bautista, accused her estranged husband of "abducting and unlawfully taking" their children from their house in San Juan, Metro Manila in October 2002. Laguna police director Senior Supt. Federico Terte said the children were "entrusted" by their father to his mistress while he worked abroad.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Outages hound 4 Laguna towns

SINILOAN, Laguna—For four days now, since a sudden power failure took place on Friday night here and the towns of Famy, Mabitac and Sta. Maria, residents have had no electricity while banks, offices and commercial establishments have relied on engines and generators to maintain normal business activities. A bank employee expressed dismay over Fleco's (First Laguna Electric Cooperative's) failure to inform the public as to when power would be restored. Fleco has been serving the eastern portion of Laguna for decades now. Long power interruptions have been the usual occurrences that beset these areas for years, according to residents.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 men held for robbery

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Cavite police swooped down on the lair of a dreaded robbery syndicate in Dasmariñas, Cavite and arrested three of the gang's alleged members over the weekend, police said. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa identified the suspects as Jaime Baybayon, 28; Cesar Calavisillas, 35; and Michael Abilong, 30. Verzosa said police raided the group's supposed safehouse inside the Bautista property in Barangay Sampaloc at about 5:30 a.m. on Saturday. The operation, he said, was prompted by a complaint filed by victim Jennifer Sabangan who, together with other jeepney passengers, was held up by the suspects before dawn Friday in Barangay Paliparan, Dasmariñas.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mayor taken by NPAs

BUTUAN CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels on Monday took hostage a town mayor of Agusan del Sur and his security escorts, police said Tuesday. But La Paz Mayor Renato Muñez and his six bodyguards were later released after giving up their firearms. Supt. Samuel Yordan, Agusan del Sur police chief, said Muñez and his escorts came from this city and were on their way to the La Paz Municipal Hall when flagged down by the rebels in Barangay Osmeña around 8 a.m. Overwhelmed by the NPA firepower, Yordan said the mayor's police and military escorts agreed to lay down their firearms in exchange for their freedom. "They were not able to fight back because they were overwhelmed by the enemy," he said. The rebels took six high powered firearms and other personal belongings including Muñez's mobile phone. Caraga police director Chief Supt. Rene Elumbaring said the incident should serve as "lesson" to local chief executives. "They should not allow their movements to be patterned," he said.

Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

TERROR SUSPICION

BI asked to monitor Indons in Sarangani

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez has urged the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to closely monitor the presence and check the records of Indonesian nationals residing in Glan town in Sarangani Province.

Dominguez made the request following reports that one of the arrested suspects in the bombing of the Australian Embassy in Indonesia was an Indonesian who lived in Glan.

The Indonesian terror suspect claimed that he stayed in Glan while undergoing training at a Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) camp.

On Monday, Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, Central Mindanao police director, went to Glan and Malapatan towns in Sarangani to verify the reports.

But Billones said his investigation yielded negative results as it was difficult to validate such.

He said he had already directed his men to coordinate with the BI satellite office in Glan to further verify the reports.

BI established an extension office in Glan last year to expedite the documentation of Indonesian nationals residing in the area.

Billones said it was necessary to check the background and monitor the movements of Indonesian nationals living in the town.

In Cotabato City, some 50 operators of Internet cafés were forced to close their establishments on Friday in the face of a stringent directive from the Optical Media Board (OMB) requiring their computer units to use original operating systems.

The same thing happened in the cities of Malaybalay and General Santos.

Joseph Coloso, president of the Cotabato City Internet Café Association, said the closure was temporary while they waited for the board's action on their resolution appealing for a moratorium.

He admitted that "most if not all" Internet service providers are using pirated software.

Under the government's anti-piracy law, the OMB is requiring Internet café owners to have their operating systems licensed at the price of almost P7,000 per unit, said Coloso, who felt that the amount is too big a burden for them.

"Just imagine if one (Internet) café has a minimum of 15 computer units, multiply it by P7,000, it would be draining on our part," he said.

"In our resolution to the board, we appealed that we be given a moratorium and a bargain of three months for every unit paid for, and thereafter, until all units shall have been licensed," Coloso said.

The various computer operating systems that have to be licensed include Microsoft Windows 98, the Millennium XP, Power DVD, Microsoft Office, and the different computer game soft wares, among others.

"Why zero in on us?" Coloso asked. *Charlie C. Señase, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gathering of 'tahong' banned after girl's death

TACLOBAN CITY—THE BUREAU of Food and Aquatic Resources in Eastern Visayas (BFAR-8) has imposed a ban against gathering of seashells at Irong-Irong Bay in the capital town of Catbalogan, Samar following the death of a five-year-old girl of red tide poisoning after eating *tahong* (green mussels) on Saturday.

Remy Lequin, BFAR-8 chief of the fisheries management division, said his office alerted all local government units, where *tahong*-gathering was common, to inform their constituents not to harvest and eat *tahong* in the meantime.

"We also asked these local government units to stop any transport of *tahong* outside their respective areas to stop possible spread of red tide cases," she told the INQUIRER.

The ban was meant to avoid a repeat of a similar incident in Barangay Old Mahayag, Catbalogan, where a girl died while 23 of her neighbors fell ill due to red tide poisoning.

Lenilyn Avestruz died at about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, more than an hour after she was brought to the Samar provincial hospital, said Juan Meniano, Samar agriculture office chief of fisheries management.

Of the 23 brought to the hospital, he said, 11 had been discharged after receiving medical treatment. The rest, including Lenilyn's parents and two siblings, were expected to be released from the hospital on Monday.

Barangay Old Mahayag is a coastal village 15 km from the town proper of Catbalogan.

Meniano said the victims collected *tahong* from Irong-Irong Bay, located between Old Mahayag and Barangay Luserna in Tarangan town, also in Samar.

"They ate the *tahong* as their viand when they took their lunch. But by 3 p.m., all of them were rushed to the hospital," he told the INQUIRER in a long distance interview.

The victims complained of dizziness, headaches and tingling sensation in their fingers, lips and tongue.

Based on the investigation conducted by Meniano's office, the seawaters of Irong-Irong Bay were found to be positive of red tide with its toxicity level at 18 cells per liter. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

6 from known Zambales clans ordered held for killing of businessman

SUBIC, ZAMBALES—A JUDGE here has ordered the arrest of six suspects, most of them from prominent families, in the killing of a man here on March 11 this year.

A family business squabble led to the killing of Abner Parungao, adoptive son of Paulino Parungao, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Judge Miguel Famularcano of the municipal trial court issued the arrest warrants against five suspects identified as lawyer Paulino Parungao and his adoptive daughter, Veronica Corpuz, Castillejos Councilor Reynaldo Misa, Nilo Garin and Alfred Alipio. The sixth suspect was unidentified.

The NBI regional office in Clark Field, Pampanga, said the younger Parungao, also known as Nino, was a businessman from Castillejos, Zambales.

Edward Villarta, NBI regional director, said the victim established a funeral parlor business in 1997 with funds provided by his biological mother and her sister.

In January 2000, however, Nino's adoptive father wrested control of the business allegedly using falsified papers.

The business has since then been managed by Paulino's adoptive daughter, Veronica Corpuz.

Nino later questioned his father's ownership of the business and filed a case of falsification of public documents against him.

This, Villarta said, started the bitter family dispute which led to the killing of the younger Parungao.

On March 11 when he was about to board his car, Nino was shot several times by a lone gunman. Nino died instantly.

What initially led investigators to suspect that the elder Parungao might have been involved in the killing was when they learned that despite persistent requests by the Subic police, Parungao refused to extend funeral services of the family business to his adoptive son.

It took a rival funeral services firm, according to Villarta, to pick up the body which remained at the crime scene for almost three hours.

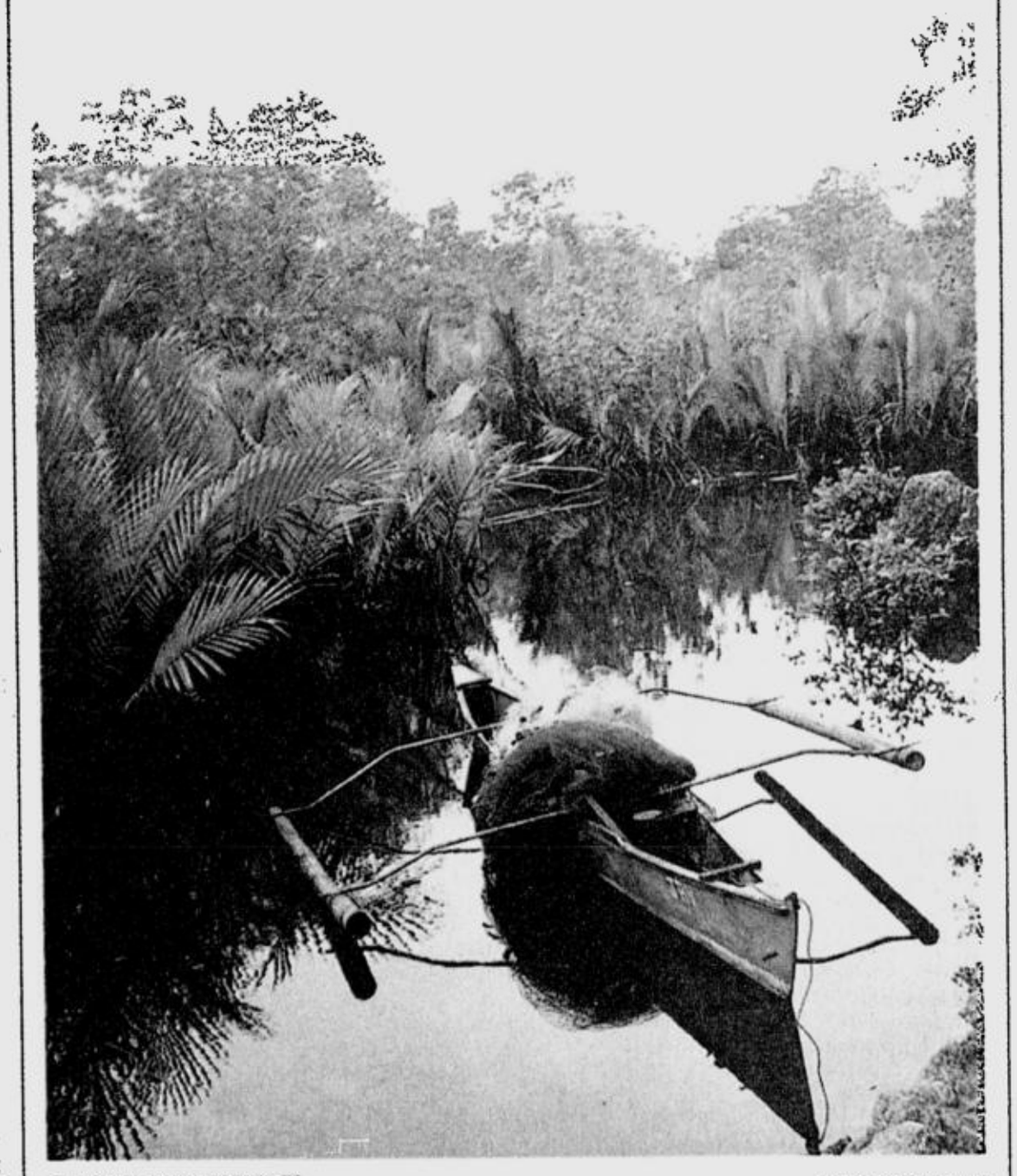
The NBI also found that the elder Parungao did not allow the use of the funeral parlor or their ancestral house for the victim's wake.

The wake was held instead at the San Roque chapel at Barangay Calapandayan in Subic, just right across Parungao's house.

Neither Parungao nor any of his family visited the wake and attended Nino's funeral, the NBI said.

Four months later, a maid of the Parungaos told police that days before Nino's death, she heard the elder Parungao instructing Corpuz and Misa to "finish" the victim as they were afraid of losing control of their business.

She said she gave the statement because she was afraid of her family's security and that she was bothered by her conscience. *Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



BANCA MANGROVE YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Fishermen leave their bancas near a mangrove forest in Maasin, Southern Leyte, when they come home after a day out at sea.

PNCC plans ₱20M flood control project in SLEx

CALAMBA CITY—THE PHILIPPINE National Construction Corp. (PNCC) will embark on a P20-million dredging project to solve the problem of flooding at the San Pedro, Laguna portion of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx), which occurs during heavy rainfall.

The PNCC will undertake the project in coordination with the local government of San Pedro to prevent flooding in the area in the future, like what happened last week during heavy rains.

Thousands of motorists were stranded Thursday night and Friday morning when flood waters rose to waist-high at Km. 28, near the factories of Alaska and Kimberly Clark, due to continuous heavy rains that caused the creek in the area to overflow.

This prompted PNCC to immediately come up with a "lasting solution to the problem."

PNCC tollways head Manuel Luis Antonio in a statement said they would elevate the affected area so that this part of the expressway will not anymore be a catch basin every time there is a high volume of rainfall.

"We have also volunteered to assist the local government of San Pedro in clearing waterways, including clogged drainage systems in the vicinity which causes the overflowing of the creek in the area, even if these are already outside the jurisdiction of PNCC," Antonio said.

He said what happened last week was that the high volume of water caused by rain could not flow quickly out of the expressway to a nearby creek because it had already overflowed.

"There was no other place for the water to go at that time," said Antonio.

He said the engineering solution would result in a higher elevation of the San Pedro portion of the expressway and cause the faster and unimpeded flow of rainwater in the vicinity of the affected area.

Antonio said that during the flooding, the PNCC immediately implemented traffic mitigation measures.

"We immediately deployed traffic enforcers along the entire stretch of the expressway to divert motorists to alternate routes. Southbound vehicles were diverted to Alabang and Susana Heights in Muntinlupa City while northbound vehicles were re-routed to Carmona, Cavite," he said.

The PNCC has already mobilized the necessary equipment and personnel to implement the engineering solution to the flooding problem at the San Pedro portion of the SLEx.

Antonio said the project would be finished in three months.

Funding for the project will come from the National Development Company. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Negros town plans to use geothermal royalty for own distribution system

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

VALENCIA, ORIENTAL NEGROS—Officials of this geothermal-rich municipality have found a way to use the town's multimillion-peso surplus of its royalty from the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) that is expected to radically lower the cost of electricity in the town to entice investors.

Valencia Vice Mayor Deodoro L. Olasiman said the municipality has decided to set up its own electrical distribution system using the P150-million surplus that has long been lying idle at the Development Bank of the Philippines because the law requires that it must be used solely for lowering the cost of electricity.

Currently, Valencia is being serviced by the Negros Oriental Electric Cooperative 2 (Noreco 2).

Olasiman said the plan is for the municipality to directly tap electricity from the Transmission Company (Transco), whose plant is located in Barangay Puhagan, in this town.

"We will eliminate the middleman (Noreco 2). That is why we expect to lower the rate of the electricity by about 50 percent," Olasiman said.

Currently, electric cooperatives buy power from Transco at P3 per kilowatt-hour. Noreco 2, in turn, sells power to its consumer at P6 per kWh, Olasiman said.

"You can just imagine the amount we can save (if we set up our own distribution system). And... we can offer cheap electricity to investors," he said.

Olasiman added that Valencia is also unsatisfied with the services of Noreco 2 because of frequent brownouts and low voltage problem, which he said discourage investors.

Olasiman said the P150 million accumulated surplus since 1992 will be used for the setting up of an electrical plant, distribution lines, transformers and meters, among others.

If the amount will not be sufficient, Barangays Puhagan, Caidiocan and Malaunay will help underwrite the additional cost, he said.

The three villages receive royalty since they also host geothermal power plants of the PNOC. These barangays also have a huge surplus from their share of the royalty, Olasiman said.

Valencia is receiving an average of P50 million in royalty every year from PNOC. About 80 percent of the amount is used to subsidize electricity in the town, as mandated by Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991. The remaining 20 percent will be for development projects of the locality receiving the royalty.

He said the municipal government is now preparing all the requirements set by the Department of Energy to allow the town to put up its own power distribution firm.

Slayings of 4 in Maco town remembered

DAVAO CITY—MILITANTS BELONGING to Karapatan staged a "memorial picket" yesterday as they marked the second anniversary of the so-called Maco 4 massacre.

Ariel Casilao, Karapatan secretary general, said it had been two years since three youth militants and their driver were summarily executed by suspected government agents but the case has yet to be resolved.

On Sept. 19, 2003, Anakbayan members Marjorie Reynoso, also a Sangguniang Kabataan leader; Lito Doydoy, and Jonathan Benaro, and motorcycle driver Ramon Regase, were abducted in Maco, Compostela Valley at gunpoint by armed men.

Three days later, their bodies were found in a shallow grave in Compostela town.

Based on findings, the four were tortured to death.

Reynoso, 18, had also been violently raped.

"Their abduction and massacre were clearly meant to silence the growing activism of the youth," Ariel Casilao, Karapatan secretary general, said.

Casilao said what saddened them was the government's apparent lack of interest to give justice to the victims. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQBOX
Question of the Week
September 21 Martial Law anniversary: Do you agree that Ferdinand Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani? Why or why not?
Win this *Inquirer shirt
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wil. each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!*
inquirer box name/age/city/message.
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Arrest of suspected radioman's killer hailed

OZAMIZ CITY—JOURNALISTS in Dipolog City expressed "great relief" over the arrest of one of the three suspects in the killing of radio commentator Klein Cantoneros.

The arrest of 32-year-old Robert Woo alias Wangyo is "an indication that the case's resolution process is indeed moving," said Dennis Baguio, a reporter of the Mindanao Observer and a colleague of Cantoneros at radio dxAA-FM in Dipolog City.

"Our expectation is now turned at a higher gear, which is [the] eventual identification of the killing's mastermind," said Baguio.

Woo was arrested at around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in his residence in Barangay Santa Isabel by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Senior Supt. Julmunir Jubail, chief of the Philippine National Police's Task Force Cantoneros, told Dipolog media from Zamboanga City on Wednesday that Woo was positively identified by a witness as among the three men aboard a motorcycle that raced down the motorcycle-riding Cantoneros moments before he was shot.

Another witness also identified Woo as chasing Cantoneros at 8 Food Park, a local restaurant, on the evening of May 3, just prior to the incident.

Woo was arrested with a warrant issued by a Dipolog Regional Trial Court last Sept. 9 indicating his name and two other unnamed suspects.

But Woo denied involvement in the crime during his presentation to the media by Dipolog police chief Supt. Tomas Hizon and Mayor Roberto Uy.

Woo's family, speaking over local radio, also insisted on his innocence.

During a press conference on Sept. 14, Uy also announced the P100,000-reward for those who gave information that led to Woo's arrest.

The reward will be awarded once Woo is meted conviction by court, Uy said.

Several days after Cantoneros' death, Woo's name floated as among the suspects.

"The investigation of the case is clearly heading in the appropriate direction," Baguio said.

Woo, who was jobless during his arrest, is a former member of Task Force Lupad, an anticrime group of the local government of Dapitan City, Task Force Cantoneros disclosed.

Cantoneros was shot at dawn of May 4, just hours after the international media community observed World Press Freedom Day.

He died after a 22-hour battle to survive in a local private hospital. *Ryan Rosauro and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Quezon residents rush to rehabilitate river

LUCENA CITY—TO SAVE THE towns of Infanta and General Nakar from a repeat of another killer flash flood from Agos river brought by incessant rains, the Department of Public Works and Highways and local officials want to immediately start the comprehensive rehabilitation of the river.

Agos river overflowed during the height of continuous rains brought by three successive typhoons last year, its rampaging water flowing towards several creeks near Infanta that bursted their banks.

What resulted was the wiping out of Infanta's water pumping stations, which caused the water to flow towards the poblacion, killing several residents and destroying houses and properties.

AT LEAST 3,000 Infanta residents haul and pile boulders at the gate of the meandering river leading to several creeks near the poblacion.
DELFIN MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Bonifacio Seguit, DPWH-IV-A director, in his report to DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane last month, said years of siltation that aggravated the strong flood brought by deadly typhoons last year had caused Agos river to meander to the lower areas, threatening anew the towns of Infanta and General Nakar.

He recommended that technical assistance be sought to provide designs and plans to protect the slope of the river channel.

The river, he said, could be redirected to its original path which leads to the Pacific Ocean.

In a meeting last week, Rep. Rafael Nantes initiated the formation of Task Force Agos River-Reina for a unified approach to the river rechanneling.

Last Aug. 26, at least 3,000 Infanta residents trooped to the Agos river to haul and pile boulders at the gate of the meandering river leading to several creeks near the poblacion.

"We have to prevent the unnatural flow of the river that now leads to our creeks and rechannel it towards its original path," Margie Bugayong, assistant Infanta municipal engineer, explained in an earlier interview.

Irrigation water for Infanta's rice fields is sourced from the Agos river.

Hundreds of Gen. Nakar residents also perished in the disaster caused by flash floods and landslides.

Avellaneda, however, expressed disagreement over the river dredging.

He maintained that after heavy rains, the excavated portions would again be filled up with all kinds of debris and silted material that will flow from the upper river stream.

A team of hydraulic engineers from the DPWH central office has been dispatched to Infanta to conduct preliminary studies on the flow of the Agos river. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

No budget for fire safety awareness drive for studes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—IN the last six years, 1,548 people, most of them children, were killed and properties worth P25 billion were lost in 49,558 fires in the country.

Yet, a government campaign seeking to reduce the losses of lives and properties by teaching safety and prevention practices to 19.2 million elementary and high school students, deemed most vulnerable to the hazard, does not even have a peso to start with, Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus said last week.

Without a budget, the Junior Fire Marshal Project could not fully take off largely on the support of private companies, Corpus, also presidential adviser on fire safety and jail affairs, told the provincial board last Monday.

The more than 30 fire marshals in Central Luzon attended the session to convince the board to ensure funding for it and to bring the project down to the level of town and city governments.

The board, appalled by the death of eight women trapped in a burning supermarket on Oct. 2 last year in this city, agreed to finance the project using provincial government funds and see it implemented.

It also planned to pass an ordinance imposing penalties on local governments that won't comply with the project.

What the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Department of Education have done so far is to develop an instructional module.

DepEd, said Corpus, has piloted the project in two schools each in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio cities.

If the pilot stage proved successful, the two agencies hoped to include the module in the curricula of public and private schools, including day care centers, nationwide starting 2006, he said.

The module teaches the value of preparedness and prevention. Lessons are introduced year-round through stories, songs, planning activities and drills that the children are expected to share with their families. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA M. ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace, Manila

Dear Madam President:

Today we witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement among the LTFRB, Insurance Commission and the two (2) management companies that shall operate LTFRBs Passenger Accident Insurance Program at no additional cost to us and without any government funds being used.

We are happy to note that under the selection process adopted by the LTFRB, the following services and facilities shall be established, among other things:

1. A 24 hotline service that shall provide on-site medical accident assistance both to the drivers and passengers.
2. A P100 Million (estimated) computer network facility using state of the art intelligent cards on a real time and on-line basis connecting all of LTFRBs regional offices nationwide, and paving the way for a shorter processing time for applications and petitions filed with the said agency.
3. A Driving Academy, capitalized at P5 Million, that shall hone the driving skills of drivers of public utility vehicles, and which will provide a data bank and profile of all drivers to ensure that only those fit to drive are hired.
4. A P20,000 bail bond for drivers who are involved in accident related cases.
5. An all risk no fault passenger accident policy that ensures prompt payment of claims within five (5) days from the occurrence of the accident.

Madam President, we are the ones who pay the premium for the passenger accident policy which is used to fund all these services. Government has no financial participation whatsoever. If at all, thru LTFRB, government is merely tasked to make sure that the operators get their money's worth. We are happy with what LTFRB has done in ensuring that we get the best deal possible.

We congratulate the officials of the agencies concerned - the LTFRB, the Insurance Commission, and the DOTC for a job well done.

Rest assured of our full support in undertakings of this nature.

Very Truly Yours,

[signatures]

Copy Furnished:

DOTC Secretary
DOF Secretary
LTFRB Chairperson/ Board Members
Insurance Commission

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR RICHARD GORDON

Dear Senator Gordon,

We, the members of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Incorporated (CAMPI), the Philippine Automotive Association (PAA), the Automotive Industry Workers Alliance (AIWA), and the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (MVPMAP), composed of 75,000 employees reaffirm our unwavering support in your battle against technical smuggling and the importation of second-hand vehicles into the country.

Recent developments have shown strong indications that the importation of these vehicles may once again be allowed. This clearly contradicts certain provisions of an existing Republic Act 8506, that bans the importation of Right Hand Drive vehicles. This also runs contrary to the President's lawful objective for automotive industry under Executive Order 156 and her recent pronouncements calling for the creation of a law that will strengthen the elimination of used vehicle importations.

Mr. Senator, CAMPI, PAA, AIWA and MVPMAP share in your opinion that "...these activities must not be allowed in Subic or anywhere else because they foster corruption, smuggling, tax evasion to the great detriment of our economy."

We join you in your vigilance, along with the many other Filipinos, who only wish for genuine economic progress for our country. We stand by our faith in God and government that there are still morally upright individuals in public service, like you, willing to fight for what is right and doing what has to be done to protect this country from those who are looking only after their self-interest.

God Bless You and God Bless Our Country!

More heat than light from the Palace

By Christine O. Avendaño

INSTEAD OF SHEDDING LIGHT on the new controversy buffeting Malacañang, presidential advisers seemed to have added more confusion.

Speaking about the cancelled lobbying contract with the US firm Venable LLP, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said no government money had been spent on the deal.

He said that according to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who had signed the contract, "no delivery from either side" had been made—meaning that Venable had yet to deliver on its obligation to seek US funding for government programs and that the government had not paid the latter for its services.

This seemed to contradict Gonzales' statements to reporters earlier that the government had paid three months worth of fees to Venable through private donations.

"The Palace considers the case closed as we move on to more important business affecting the people and the nation," Bunye said.

Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao defended Gonzales from attacks by Palace critics, saying the 5-page contract was "really more for lobbying funds for the armed forces and the Philippine National Police."

Tiglao also said the Palace would disclose the names of the 50 members of a proposed constitutional commission which would collate proposals for amending the Constitution.

"It's a good mix of people who really are interested in Charter change," Tiglao told reporters.

The commission was supposed to start its work on Sept. 15 but Tiglao said the delay did not matter because the members were "competent, hardworking and they can really speed up the work."

The commission is supposed to submit a report to the President by the end of the year.

BUNYE: No government money

Militant youths at Gonzales' gate

MILITANTS BANGED AT THE gates of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales' office yesterday to condemn the controversial Venable LLP contract, claiming it was a sellout of the national sovereignty to US interests.

In a 30-minute picket in front of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency offices, a small group of demonstrators demanded Gonzales' removal from his post.

Vencer Crisostomo, chair of the League of Filipino Students, said the abrogation of the contract was an empty gesture and that Gonzales had shown the "subservience" of the Arroyo administration to American interests.

Eleanor de Guzman, Anakbayan secretary general, said there was still the possibility that the Venable contract could push through.

"They only said the contract would be rescinded. They could still take it back," she said.

Gonzales did not meet with the protesters, who contented themselves with banging on the gates with pieces of wood.

DJ Yap

Lawmakers see venality in Venable lobby deal

From page A1

ly, they're all the same. The same range—P50 million to P100 million."

"The Venable contract is pretty much representative. If our informants are correct, then these are very large amounts that are going basically to waste," Zamora added.

The deal with Venable aimed to secure US funding for Palace efforts to reshape the Constitution and for the upgrading of the Armed Forces and the national police.

Sen. Joker Arroyo summoned Gonzales to an inquiry of the blue ribbon committee to find out if Gonzales had the power to enter into such a contract on behalf of the government.

The man is the issue

"The issue here is not the contract. The issue is whether Secretary Gonzales is still fit to be the national security adviser, considering what he did in that contract," Arroyo said in a press briefing.

"Whether he's a liability to the President, a liability to the country, a liability to the government, these things must be answered," Arroyo said. "So it's nothing really about the contract. It's his propensity to not think about what he's doing."

The hearing by Arroyo's committee is set for 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Lawmakers have said they wanted Gonzales to explain the details of the contract, including the identities of the supposed private donors who would shell out the hefty fee for Venable.

Gonzales' own decision

Ms Arroyo said there was nothing wrong with having a lobby contract with Washington since 140 countries in the world had such contracts with US entities.

Contending it was "necessary to have representation" in the United States, Ms Arroyo also said that Gonzales' decision to seek a lobby contract was his own just as his decision to seek private donors was a "judgment call."

She said she did not meddle in the issue because since she became President, she had allowed Cabinet members to decide on matters involving contracts being entered into by the government.

National security disaster

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago filed a resolution also seeking a probe by her committee on foreign relations. She said she would not mind joint hearings with Arroyo's committee.

Santiago stressed the contract's cancellation did not mitigate Gonzales' legal liability.

"The Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act punishes the mere entering on behalf of the government into any contract manifestly and gross disadvantageous to the government. Thus, cancellation does not erase criminal liability," she said.

Other senators demanded that Gonzales explain under whose authority or orders he signed the contract with Venable.

"Norberto Gonzales to my mind is a national security disaster. Why should we engage the services of an American law firm to study the Philippine Constitution? Number two: Under what authority did he sign the agreement?" Senate President Franklin Drilon asked.

Only two questions

"If he says this is funded by the private sector, is he authorized by the private sector to sign it? Who are these personalities in the private sector who are willing to shell out $75,000 a month?"

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile shared Drilon's view. "What is the source of his power to enter into a contract? The responsibility belongs to the grantor of the authority. He must explain his source of authority to conclude that contract and obligate the Philippines," Enrile said.

Senator Arroyo said the hearing would be quick and he would only pose two questions to Gonzales.

The first would be who authorized Gonzales to make the deal and the second "whether the question of foreign funding is inimical to the national interest, national security or the Constitution?" Arroyo said.

Gonzales' allies

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano have also filed resolutions seeking a House investigation of the Venable deal and other PR contracts that the government signed with other American lobby firms.

Administration lawmakers, however, said they regretted the deal's cancellation, saying that some sectors had prejudged the contract.

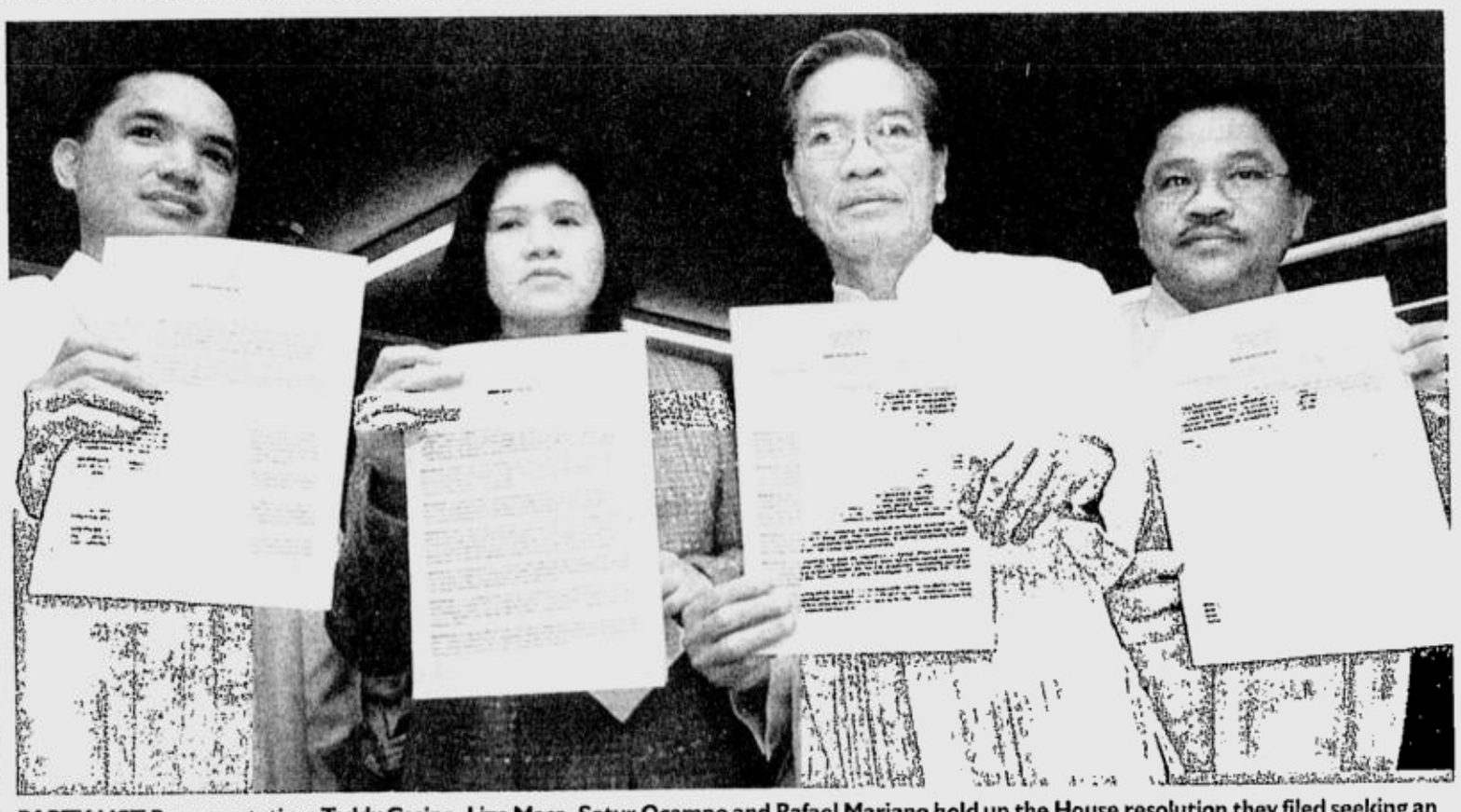
Lakas-CMD Representatives Edwin Uy (Isabela) and Isidoro Real (Zamboanga del Sur), vice chair of the committee on good government, said that with the Venable contract, the government aimed to fast-track $45 million in potential US loans for development programs in the country.

But because some people prejudged the contract, the prospect of fresh US funding has been lessened, they said in a joint statement.

Uy also said lobbying by foreign countries seeking assistance was "part of the game in the US."

"We have to remember that we are not the only country soliciting US assistance and employing a lobby firm can be an invaluable asset in this area," he said.

MEMBERS of the militant League of Filipino Students pound on the gate of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency in Quezon City where controversial National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales holds office. RYAN LIM



PARTY-LIST Representatives Teddy Casino, Liza Masa, Satur Ocampo and Rafael Mariano hold up the House resolution they filed seeking an inquiry into the alleged spying by US intelligence agencies on Philippine political affairs. ERIK ARAZAS

3rd US document tracked generals' moves

From page A1

Filipino-American FBI agent Leandro Aragoncillo and former PNP Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino are facing espionage charges before a US court in connection with alleged pilfering of the FBI files. Aquino is in the United States after fleeing murder charges in the Philippines.

The US Embassy reports centered on military plots against Ms Arroyo as she faced the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old presidency. This followed revelations her family received illegal gambling payoffs and allegations she stole last year's election. She has denied the charges.

Throughout the three-month crisis there were persistent rumors of coup attempts.

Malacañang's disclosure of the controversial "Hello Garci" wiretaps on June 6 was purportedly prompted by fears that it was an opposition attempt to destabilize the administration.

The US Embassy reports appeared to bear out this apprehension. Although the embassy consistently belittled the efforts of the plotters, its reports seemed to show that Ms Arroyo's political problems were eroding her support in the military.

The MacLearn report was dated July 12. It focused on events surrounding the fateful 8th of July when 10 Cabinet secretaries and Palace officials resigned en masse and demanded that the 58-year-old President also quit. They said she had lost her credibility.

Political and business leaders, in a series of declarations, then broke away from Ms Arroyo.

Partisan generals

Quoting a clandestine source, MacLearn reported that in an attempt to ensure the military's support of her embattled administration following the mass resignations, Ms Arroyo called an emergency meeting of her commanding generals.

"Separately, however, junior and field-grade officers within the AFP noted that they did not back the administration, and actively supported (Ms) Arroyo's resignation. Further, a growing number of senior military officers were siding with the opposition," said MacLearn.

In his comment, MacLearn quoted Mussomeli as saying that "the chatter level about political destabilization and the need for extra-constitutional change has risen." But he said that any attempt to oust Ms Arroyo would have been futile.

The report described the opposition as weak and still without a unifying force.

The report was written a few days after the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines refused to join calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation, ensuring her survival.

Gen. Efren Abu, then the Armed Forces chief of staff, had also announced that the military would remain neutral. Abu had ordered the generals to take action against any attempt to break the chain of command.

The MacLearn report said that the US Embassy was disappointed with "the obligatory Cabinet resignations demanded by Arroyo on July 7."

US disappointment

The courtesy resignations, it turned out, were meant to preempt the Cabinet desertion and its political fallout.

"Although (Mussomeli) stated (US) opposition to a new round of 'people power,' he also expressed disappointment over the obligatory Cabinet resignations demanded by (Ms) Arroyo on July 7, noting that it would likely disrupt important reforms underway, especially recent progress made toward economic modernization and the fight against corruption," the report said.

The embassy declined comment on the report. Press attaché Matthew Lussenhop said: "We will neither confirm or deny any published report concerning US intelligence. It's been our longstanding practice."

Gilberto Asuque, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said "it's part of a diplomat's functions, as provided for under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic relations, to report on the host country. This is normally done by foreign service officers."

A diplomat can make an "inquiry" into the host country's situation provided it is done through "legal means" or he doesn't violate the laws of that country, Asuque said in a briefing.

"Legal means" could be understood as taking note of what's being reported in newspapers or heard in talk shows, he said.

Cyclists ask for free parking spaces for bikes

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BIKERS ARE ASKING PROVIDERS that racks to be provided for their transport should be free of charge.

They made the request as a government agency appealed to private establishments to provide bike racks to encourage the use of bicycles within Metro Manila.

In expressing the hope that bike racks would be for free, Jack Yabut, president of Firefly Brigade, a bikers' organization, said that their efforts to promote bike lanes in the Metro could help curb the problem of pollution.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is planning to create 200 kms of interconnected pedestrian and biking lanes in Metro Manila by 2010 with the participation of private businesses.

On Sunday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando asked malls, supermarkets, and offices if they could install bicycle racks.

Yabut said his group, which attended MMDA's consultative meetings on the project, would present the agency its position on any plans to impose fees for bike-rack use.

"Charging for bike racks would really be a disincentive to our bikers. Besides, bike racks are cheap and easy to install, and it would not need that much capital investment from private businesses," said Yabut, adding that the majority of bikers were from lower-income groups.

Meanwhile, the Marikina City Bikeways Office is planning to propose an ordinance requiring business establishments in the city to provide parking spaces for bicycles of their employees and customers. "We are now coordinating with one of our city councilors for the ordinance," bikeways office head Lota Contreras told the INQUIRER.

Biking is one of the strategies being eyed to lessen the impact of soaring oil prices. The MMDA has started marking bike lanes in several areas in the metropolis to encourage people to use bikes.

To promote biking, several bikers groups said malls and restaurants should start providing parking areas to customers for free.

While the ordinance is still on the drawing board, the Marikina City government is already providing bike racks in strategic areas in the city.

Bike racks, consisting of pink railings where bicycles could be chained to, have been set up around the city halls, near hospitals, some schools and public markets that bikers could use for free, Contreras said.

Some 30 kms of bike lanes had already been opened in Marikina City from Barangay Concepcion Dos passing through Parang Area and ending in Barangay Fortune, the site of many factories. The city government hopes to build an additional 16-km bike lane this year. This is still part of the Marikina City Bikeways Program that aims to build 66 kms of bike ways to promote the use of bicycles as means of transportation.

"Biking has many benefits for the people. It is good for the health and for the environment. People will also save on gasoline expenses," Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando said.

Passenger nabbed for 'coke' at Naia

By Nikko Dizon

A TAIWANESE MAN BOUND FOR home tried to be clever and taped four packs of suspected cocaine around his waist, hoping to avoid detection at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

But suspect Chin Hsien Jui's ploy failed, and he was promptly arrested by police authorities for possession of one kilo of cocaine with an estimated street value of P5 million.

Chin, 34, was turned over to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) for further investigation, according to Supt. Arnulfo Taberdo of the 1st Police Center for Aviation Security (PCAS) of the Airport Security Group (ASG) at the Naia Terminal 1.

Taberdo said the Taiwanese national was a passenger of China Airlines CI 638 bound for Kaoshiung, Taiwan.

At the final boarding check, the screener frisked Chin and discovered the plastic bags with a white substance taped around the suspect's waist, Taberdo said.

Taberdo said that authorities said the substance was found to be cocaine.

Chin had entered the country only last Sept. 9 and could not speak a word of English, he added.

Taberdo said the mandatory pat down or frisking of a passenger is only done at the final security check, when asked how Chin managed to get past the other security checks without being detected with packs of illegal drugs on his body.

According to Taberdo, the ASG is primarily tasked to check passengers for prohibited weapons such as guns.

"We don't frisk if the (body X-ray) doesn't sound the alarm. It is at the final check in that the frisking is mandatory," Taberdo said.

He added that the Naia is one of the few airports that has made body frisking at the final security check mandatory.

A DRUG Enforcement Agency officer presents to the media Hsien Ching Jui (left), alleged to be a courier of a big-time drug syndicate. One kilo of suspected high-grade cocaine worth P5 million was seized from the suspect. ROGER MARGALLO

Caloocan inmates may yet enjoy 'condo' life

By Nancy Carvajal

IF PLANS DO NOT MISCARRY, the Caloocan City jail inmates would be living in a condo type facility or in a new building by next year.

The City's Peace and Order Council (POC) proposed in a recent meeting the construction of additional floors to the present jail or the acquisition of land for a new building.

POC members made the proposal after receiving reports that the local jail was congested, the total number of prisoners some almost three times the limit of 585 inmates.

City Jail Warden Supt. Alejandro Almacen, in a report to the POC, said the jail now had 1,957 detainees, at least 1,372 more than the limit.

Of the total, 1,703 are men, 169 are women and 45 are minors.

"The money (for the jail expansion) could come from the (P238 million) peace and order budget," said Councilor Dennis Padilla.

Mayor Enrico Echiverri promised to look into the proposal saying jail congestion was a problem for most local governments.

"Proper living conditions for the inmates are the best tool for effective rehabilitation," he said.

In the same meeting, Marissa Manalo-Ang, a member of the local Integrated Bar of the Philippines, revealed that inmates were released through their free legal assistance program called Oplan Decongestion.

"Though 180 inmates were released, 202 new ones were brought in (as of Aug. 17)," the lawyer said.

She added that 38 more juvenile offenders could also be released through the Release on Recognizance (ROR) program. However, at least four additional lawyers and staff must be hired to help fast-track the cases.

Apart from the facilities, the meeting also discussed new T-shirts for inmates.

"Due to lack of T-shirts, suspects, when attending court hearings, were borrowing from other jail 'residents' (and the garments are) sometimes not washed," a committee member said.

Adan's appointment: reason for protest

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NOW I KNOW WHY SOME MILITARY officers are frothing in the mouth because of the appointment of Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan as officer-in-charge of the Southern Command (Southcom).

If what the things they told me are true—I'd like to stress the "if"—then their gripes are valid.

When he was chief of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Service (CRS), Adan allegedly bought computers and vehicles for the use of its personnel. The computers and vehicles were distributed among some units in the main office in Camp Aguinaldo and the different field offices of the CRS.

"The computers and vehicles, Mr. Tulfo, were passed off as new when, in fact, they were second-hand vehicles," said a former CRS officer. Within months, the computers and vehicles were no longer working, said my source.

When Adan was superintendent at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), my source said, he brought along an officer with the rank of major to the academy. The major allegedly became Adan's comptroller and logistics officer.

But Adan and the major had a falling-out for one reason or another, the source said. He said the major asked to be transferred out of the PMA.

If the accusations against Adan were true—emphasis on "were true"—then President Macapagal-Arroyo should reconsider her decision to place him as head of the AFP's premier field unit.

But before Adan is relieved, there should be a thorough investigation to determine the truth to the allegations.

For all we know, the allegations against Adan could be what people in the military call "militics" or military politics. Whatever that means.

* * *

Senior Insp. Jaime Manaig, chief of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) in Rizal is reportedly an operator of a seven-unit bus fleet operating in the province.

That's clearly a case of conflict of interest. Do his superiors know about his busines, if true?

Where did he get the money to buy those buses? With a police captain's salary, he can't buy even one unit.

* * *

I learned about Manaig's alleged transport business when a former driver of one of his buses came to me the other day to complain that the captain had mauled him.

Manaig got angry with him, according to Dante Lapaz, when he saw him still at the garage when he should be out "making money" for the captain's company. Lapaz said his bus had faulty brakes and he had it repaired.

But Manaig would not accept his reason. He reportedly mauled the driver and tried to hit his head with a hammer. If the driver's claim is true, then Manaig is a very violent man and doesn't deserve to be a cop.

(I tried to get in touch with Manaig to get his side. But he didn't return my calls).

* * *

Some bus operators have complained to this writer that it would cost P300,000 to have their bus route extended.

The money supposedly goes to some high officials at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

Will the LTFRB chair please say this is not true?

METROBRIEFS

Actress Lapus hurt in accident

TELEVISION actress Bianca Lapus was injured after the car she was driving collided with a passenger jeepney inside the Ortigas Business District in Pasig City early yesterday morning. Lapus, estranged wife of comedian Vhong Navarro, sustained wounds in her arms and legs, the Eastern Police District Traffic Enforcement Group said yesterday. Her boyfriend Raymond Morente, 25, seated on the passenger side of the car, was unhurt, traffic investigators added. The jeep driver fled after the accident and remains unidentified. Bianca had just joined an event her brother Robin, 25, had organized at the Shangri-La Hotel and was driving her four-door Proton Wira Sedan on Lourdes Avenue about 2:25 a.m. when her car collided with the jeep as she made a turn on San Miguel Avenue. The front portion of the jeep rammed into the driver's side of the car where Bianca was seated. The portion was wrecked, but Bianca sustained only wounds and bruises. "My guardian angel saved me," she later told investigators. Bianca said it was impossible for the driver not to have seen her make the turn. But three passengers on board the jeepney told investigators their vehicle was not on a fast course. "Her (Lapus') car just came out of nowhere and was running at a high speed," a 23-year-old female passenger told police. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Where is Alison?

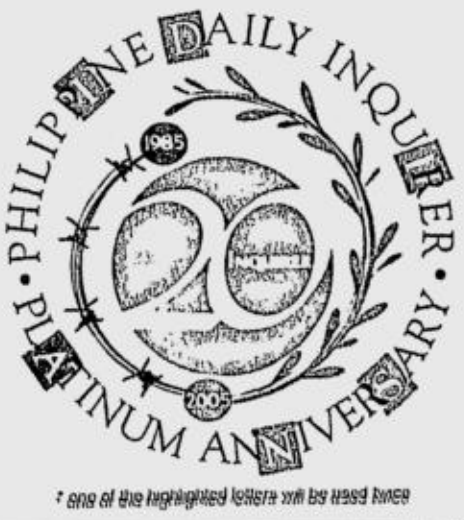
SEARCHERS have yet to recover the body of Alison Analupa, one of three persons who drowned in Muntinlupa City on Friday. Alison, 2, was swept away by strong currents of the Pasong Diablo creek with her uncle Alexander Bihag and one-year-old sister, Angel, after a period of heavy rains early morning of Friday. Bihag and Angel's bodies were recovered in two separate places on Saturday. The Philippine Coast Guard and the Metro Manila Development Authority decided to call off their search and rescue efforts yesterday, said Jet Pabilona, head of the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC). But the CDCC, the city's rescue team, and the Lake Management Office opted to continue their search operations until Wednesday, said Pabilona. A rescue team had been scouring the 5,000-hectare Laguna de Bay in search of Alison since Saturday. Shanties built along lakes, rivers and other waterways were "sealed" yesterday upon orders of Mayor Jaime Fresnedi to prevent residents from returning to their homes. The local government also warned that they would be forced to demolish the houses of those who insisted on staying along the shorelines which had been declared hazard areas. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

A 'fool' for gold

A TRIO of con artists tricked a young bank employee into parting with his mobile phone and cash in exchange for a "gold" ring last Friday in Quezon City. Jose Carlo del Rosario, 24, an Equitable Bank employee, told police he was walking along Quezon Avenue near Mayon Street when a man approached him and asked if he could help him find a buyer for his "gold" ring. Two other men later joined them, according to Del Rosario. One of the men managed to convince Del Rosario to trade in his Nokia 6600, plus P300, for the ring. When Del Rosario had the ring examined later, he found out that he had been fooled. Since he could not identify the con artists, the incident was merely recorded at the Criminal Investigation Division at Camp Karingal. Meanwhile, a man was stabbed dead with a bolo after figuring in an argument with a drinking buddy in Batasan Hills Sunday night. Police identified the victim as Wenceslao Magos, 27, a vendor. Magos was having a drink with friends along IBP Road when he got into a heated argument with Rolly Onate, 37. Their drinking buddies pacified the two who eventually decided to go home, police said. But apparently still angry, the suspect went to his house to get a bolo. Oñate stabbed the victim once on the chest, police said. Magos was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center, but he did not make it alive. Batasan Hills police later caught the suspect. *DJ Yap*

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

INQUIRER Platinum Code



* one of the highlighted letters will be used twice

What noun means a lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike?

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Old house with a new role

By Julie M. Aurelio

IT WAS AN OLD HOUSE, A *BAhay-na-bato* on a corner lot, 29 Mendoza Street, Brgy. Paltok, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Engineer Edward Abiad and his family were moving away, but his mother, Narcissa, did not want to sell the house. She wanted to convert it into a community library where the children of Paltok could learn to read and read well.

Now, through the efforts of Laging Pahinungod, a volunteer organization in the University of the Philippines Diliman, Narcissa's long-cherished wish is coming true.

The Aklatang Pambata will soon be Paltok's own community library. The University of the Philippines Interior Design Class 179 is designing and renovating the ground floor of the Abiad house.

PALTOK'S new community library (left) and volunteer teacher (below) with children at a story-telling session at Aklatang Pambata in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.
RAFFY LERMA

Built in the 1930s, caretaker Eduardo Estrella said the Abiad house was originally a vacation place for the family. *Bahay-na-bato* structures were common until after World War II, he said.

The ground floor was designed as a "*silong*" or shed, while the second floor served as living quarters. Films like "Tanging Ina" and "So Happy Together" were shot in the second floor, Estrella said.

Abiad had entrusted the house to Estrella as they were members of the same UP Diliman fraternity, Beta Epsilon.

Community project

"The idea is to set up a library and to make it a community-based endeavor," said Alistair Troy Lacsamana, Laging Pahinungod member and the project's overall coordinator. The community was involved in planning, getting the books, sourcing funds, as well as recruiting volunteers. Secondhand textbooks were solicited from the Cartwheel Foundation.

Pahinungod wanted Aklatang Pambata to be a model community library that could be replicated in other parts of the country.

Prof. Lourdes Vargas of the UP Integrated School and one of the project's major players said some people who heard of the project also wanted to start libraries in their areas.

In July 2004, Aklatang Pambata got 25 boxes of used textbooks from the Cartwheel Foundation. Lacsamana said they hoped to get more children's books for their story-telling sessions.

The Aklatang Pambata, he added, would also be a reading tutorial and resource center.

Two elementary schools would be the main beneficiaries of the library: the Bayanihan Elementary School and the Paltok Elementary School.

Even before the ground floor is renovated, story-telling sessions are already being organized.

One session had children of elementary age as story-tellers.

Important

Sharon Betan, mother of one of the child storytellers, said having a community library was a worthwhile endeavor. "Reading is very important, and to have a community library would really help enhance the reading skills of children," she said.

Betan's daughter, Sierra, was a finalist in a story-telling competition sponsored by the National Book Development Board (NBDB). The other story-tellers were Nelson Capila Jr. and Czarelle Guerra, winner in the NBDB contest.

The three are all Grade 5 students at the UP Integrated School. Capile and Guerra told stories in Filipino: "Ang Mahiyaing Manok" and "Ang Batang Ayaw Maligo," respectively. Betan's story was "Bruhihi, Bruhaha (Mrs. Magalit)" in English.

"It seems that the children find stories in Filipino more amusing," noted Vargas.

Asked if his regular school had story-telling activities, a boy named Lorenzo said: "*Hindi po. Binebentahan lang kami ng libro pero walang nagkukuwento.*" (No. They just sell books but no one ever tells stories.)

Lacsamana admitted they did not have enough money to sustain the renovation.

The Interior Design 179 class estimated the renovation costs at P1.2 million. The class has collected only P280,000, so they are looking for sponsors.

The volunteers are also coordinating with the Sangguniang Barangay and *kagawad* to ensure support for the project.

Vargas said they were not worried about the lack of volunteers. "People always come to help. And I am encouraged by those who eventually stay on to help with the project."

The Laging Pahinungod now has 40 volunteers working on Aklatang Pambata.

Despite the obstacles, the group remains optimistic.

"I always get a different sense of satisfaction and fulfillment when I see that the children are happy," Lacsamana said.

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Death	At least 36 months prior to the semester of death	Minimum monthly pension: P1,000 - if with less than 10 CYS; P1,200 - if with at least 10 CYS; P2,400 - if with at least 20 CYS; with 13th month pension; Lump sum, if less than 36 monthly contributions
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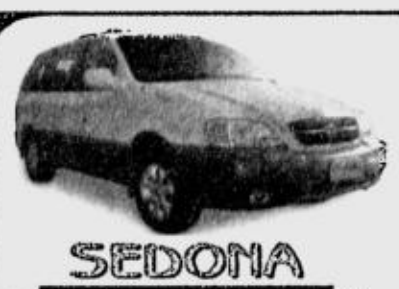

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL—Redskins vs Cowboys; 9 a.m. (r- 8:30 p.m.); ESPN—Longtime NFC rivals Washington and Dallas collide on the gridiron.

GOLF: LPGA John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic; 5:30 p.m.; ESPN—Check out the second round take place from Oklahoma.

Dolphins sink Knights in NC Finals opener

By Jasmine W. Payo

BANKING ON JASON CASTRO'S offensive burst in the final period, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins downed the Letran Knights, 79-74, to claim Game 1 of the NCAA Finals yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Overshadowed by main man Gabby Espinas in the first three quarters, Castro turned up the heat for the Dolphins by pumping in 12 of his 21 points in the last seven minutes of play.

Espinas, who earlier bagged the Defensive Player of the Year award, delivered 20 points before fouling out with 6:44 remaining.

"We were lucky," said PCU coach Junel Baculi. "Despite the bad breaks that went our way, the team displayed the heart of a champion. All credit goes to my players."

The Dolphins, who prevailed over the Knights for the first time this season, will shoot for their second straight crown tomorrow.

The Knights were on top before Castro completed a three-point play and Lisztian Amparado nailed a low-post basket to even the count at 70.

Robert Sanz and Castro then buried back-to-back triples to push the Dolphins ahead, 76-70, midway in the fourth quarter.

And as the Knights went scoreless in the last 2:45 of play, Castro nailed two free throws to pad the Dolphins' lead, 79-74, with 27.7 seconds left.

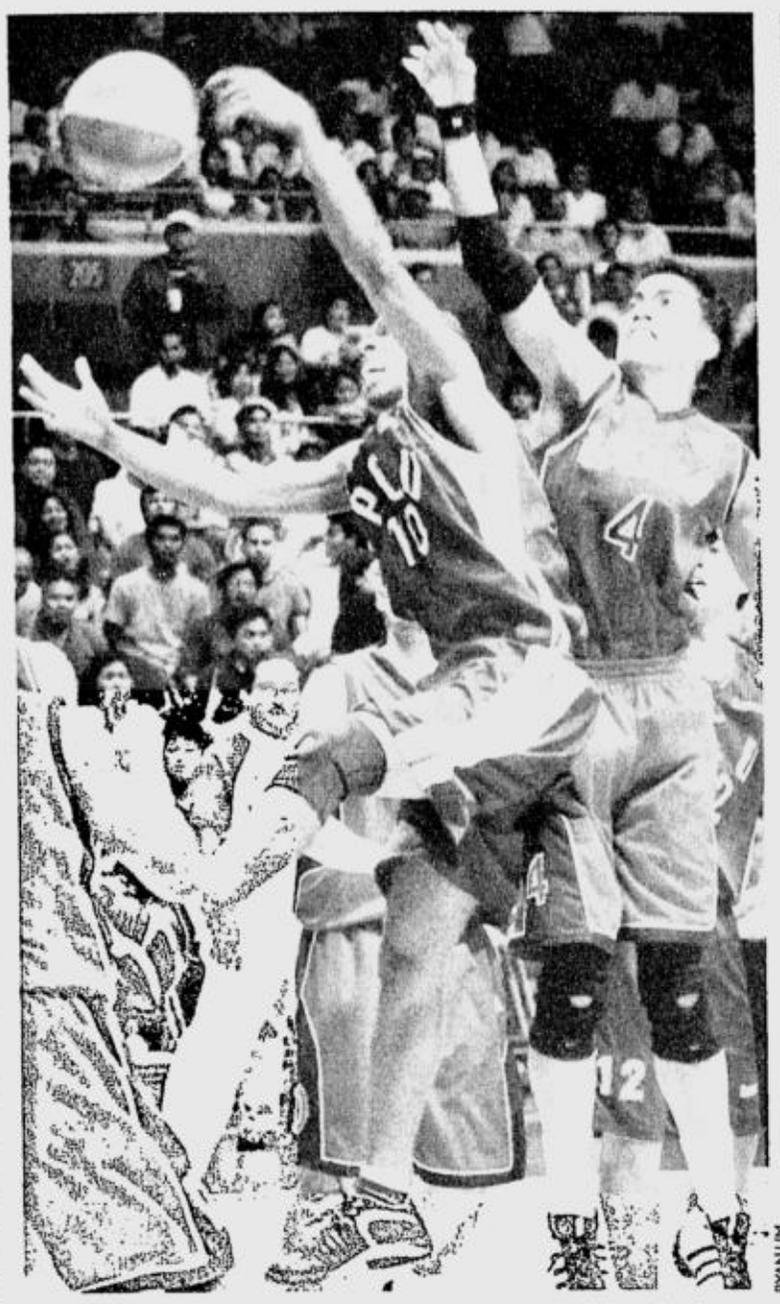
Knights forward Aaron Aban, this season's Most Improved Player, kept the contest close at halftime, 44-42, after the Dolphins charged to an early 37-27 lead behind Amparado.

In junior play, the San Sebastian Staglets moved within a win of their first title in 19 years after edging defending champion San Beda Cubs, 83-76.

Earlier, center Jay Sagad of the St. Benilde Blazers clinched the Most Valuable Player plum, while Kelvin dela Peña of the Mapua Cardinals emerged as the Rookie of the Year.

Although the Blazers finished with a sixth-best 5-9 record, Sagad garnered the highest Player's All-Around Value with 37.2 points, narrowly edg-

DOLPHINS/ A22



RYAN LIM

DEFENSIVE Player of the Year Gabby Espinas of PCU (10) grabs the rebound off Letran's Mark Andaya in Game 1 of the best-of-three finals.

8 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

RP lends helping hand to East Timorese

THE PHILIPPINES WILL NOT ONLY have to worry about the allowances, billeting and meals of its own athletes in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, it will have to look after the athletes from East Timor, too. The country will spend close to P500,000 for the East Timorese as an act of goodwill. Southeast Asia's newest republic is seeing action in the Games for the first time. The SEAG Federation will subsidize part of the delegation's air fare. East Timor will send only 29 athletes who will compete in seven sports.

* * *

ONE SPORT that has not gotten much attention despite the noise being generated for the coming Games is sailing. With just over two months before the start of the competitions, the country's sailing bets are sweating it out in Subic, away from friends and family. The Philippine Sailing Association expects to win at least three gold medals—and a maximum of five, a fair contribution to the RP drive of winning the overall championship for the first time. *Musong R. Castillo*

Cebu launches its end of 2005 SEA Games

CEBU GOT ITS P10 MILLION BUDGET REQUEST from Malacañang yesterday through Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez during the formal launch of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in the Queen City of the South.

The amount, presented to Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia, will be used to augment the province's own budget for the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games. Cebu is host to six events, including the first-ever dancesport competition.

"The money will be used for the province's organizational expenses," said PSC commissioner Richie Garcia, also the operations chair of the Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee (Philsoc).

Aside from dancesport, which will be held at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu will also be the site of the competitions in sepak takraw (San Carlos gym), pencak silat (Cebu Coliseum), judo and karatedo (Mandaue Sports Center) and mountain bike (Danao).

Cebu SEAG Organizing Committee chair Jonathan Guardo said they requested the additional budget from Malacañang after the local governments of Cebu, Mandaue and Danao could only come up with P5 million of their estimated expenses of P15 million.

From Cebu, Ramirez and his group will proceed to Bacolod City today to check on the refurbishing work on venues.

Bacolod is the other southern province hosting the Games with action in weightlifting, men's football, volleyball and boxing to be held in separate places. *Musong R. Castillo*

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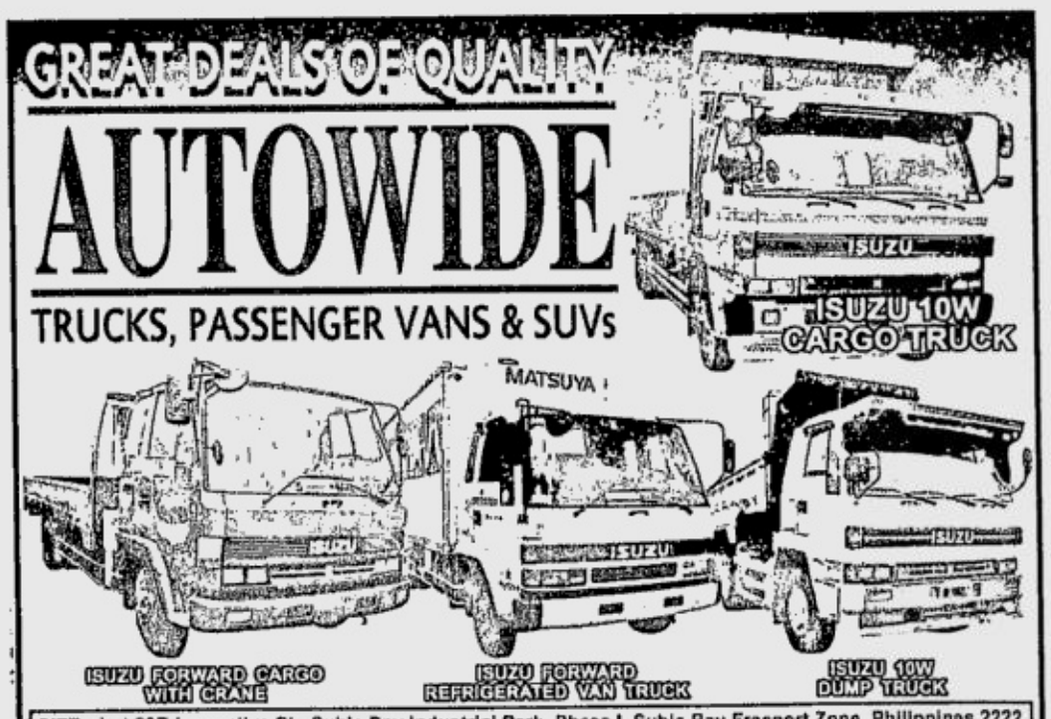

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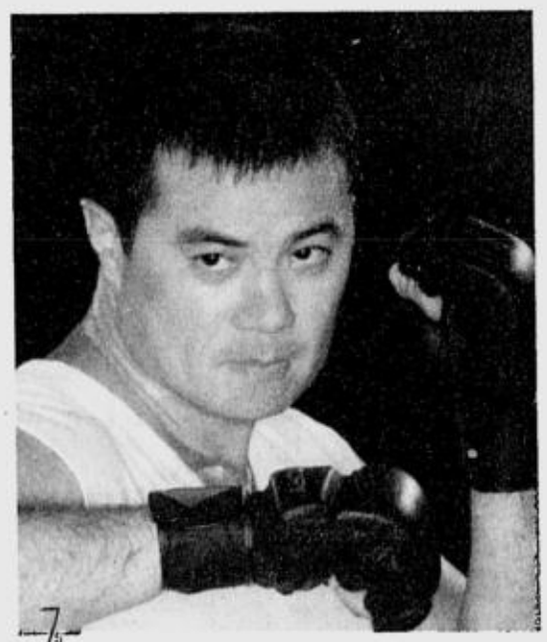

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Air21 proves a pre-season revelation

By June Navarro

IF PRE-SEASON GAMES COUNT IN THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association, Air21 would be the league's solo leader now.

The Express chalked up their fourth straight victory in a 112-90 rout of the San Miguel Beermen during a pre-season game Sunday night at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Renren Ritualo drilled in 10 three-pointers, including six in the final six minutes, to finish with 38 points as the unbeaten Express completed their mastery of San Miguel ballclubs.

"I hope our luck will spill over in the regular wars," said coach Bo Perasol, whose Express have earlier toppled Ginebra, Purefoods and Coca-Cola in tune-up games. "These teams, however, have yet to unleash their full strength, so I expect a different challenge when the season begins."

The two-tournament 31st season kicks off on Oct. 2 beginning with the import-flavored conference. Red Bull and Purefoods will tangle in the lone opening game.

Though a visibly overweight Sean Daniels was a nonfactor in their previous outings, the Express have learned to survive with Ritualo, Ronald Tubid, Yancy de Ocampo, Gary David, Ranidel de Ocampo, Wynne Arboleda and John Ferriols working cohesively.

Perasol said two more players in their 14-man local roster would be stricken off the list before the season begins.

An INQUIRER source said the Express plan to send 6-foot-5 Mark Pingris and playmaker Egay Billones to Purefoods in exchange for a future first-round pick.

Sy completes golden double in Asian F3

THE PHILIPPINES' Tyson Sy (holding the flag) is flanked by runner-up James Winslow of Britain and third placer Ananda Mikola of Indonesia.

BOGOR, INDONESIA—BATANGAS NOW WAITS FOR THE Tyson Sy show.

Proving his thrilling Round 9 victory was no fluke, Sy kept the Philippine flag fluttering proudly all Sunday at the Sentul International Circuit by ruling Round 10, completing a golden double in the Asian Formula Three series here.

The twin wins gave Sy, the youngest driver in the field at 17, a big chance of pulling the rug from under overall leader Ananda Mikola of Indonesia when the last two rounds are held at the Batangas Racing Circuit in November.

"I will win in the Philippines," declared Sy, of Speedtech Asia, after clocking 17 minutes and 7.595 seconds in the last race for the day, to pick up another 20 points. "I will prove these victories are no fluke."

Along with the 20 points he won in Round 9, Sy jacked up his total to 101 points in the nation-hopping series, moving up to second from third and closing in on Mikola, of Fastron Racing with Threebond, who salvaged third place, good for 12 points, and 127 overall.

Briton James Winslow of Shell Kinetic PCSO finished second anew, clocking 17:16.244, and slipped to third from second with 100 points. After failing to finish in Round 9 earlier Sunday, Mikola salvaged finished third in 17:20.392.

Mikola, who spun out of the track in the heat of battle in Round 9 after hitting a tire wall, frustrated another RP bet, Dado Peña of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, who took it easy after nearly colliding with the Indon while negotiating a tight corner.

"I almost touched (cars) with Ananda," said Peña, who finished fourth in 17:24.002. "I had to pull down quite a bit."

Frustrated in his bid to clinch the driver's championship before his home fans at the 3.9-km Sentul Circuit, Mikola later said there is a chance he would not race in Batangas. He is set to race next in the opening leg of the A1 Grand Prix in Britain along with AF3 defending champion Christian Jones of Australia.

"I have to know next week if I can get permission from the A1 Grand Prix whether I can still race in the Philippines," said Mikola. "I am still unsure.

Sy put on a show that impressed even Mikola's Indonesian fans, surrendering the lead to Winslow in the first lap and regaining it in the third. Sy slowly but surely opened a big gap, leaving the field competing for a view of his car's tail-end.

"I didn't have a good start, I have to give it to Winslow," said Sy. "But I knew I must win, so I gave it my best. When I managed to retake the lead, I knew I had it."

Pleased with the outcome of the race, AF3 chair Ed Peña predicted an even tighter race when action resumes on Nov. 5-6 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Moreno Soeprapto of Indonesia also posted a golden double, ruling the Promotions Class anew for Denso Hanjin Joson F3. Soeprapto clocked 17:34.187 while Lee Farrel of Ireland, racing for Shell Kinetic PCSO, was second in 17:34.982. Another Irish driver, Greg Murphy, of Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, was third.

"Tyson pulled off a great move. It was a tough but good race," said Winslow.

Asian Formula Three Round 10 Results

DRIVER	Country	Time
1. Tyson Sy	Philippines	17:07.595
2. James Winslow	Britain	17:16.244
3. Ananda Mikola	Indonesia	17:20.392
4. Dado Pena	Philippines	17:24.002
5. Rodolfo Avila	Macau	17:26.505

De Paul star to reinforce Red Bull five

By June Navarro

GREER: Ex-Blue Devil

AFTER WEEKS OF scouting and searching, Red Bull Barako finally found an import it feels can fill the team's huge gap in the middle.

Quemont Greer may not be your typical National Basketball Association prospect but he is expected to create a dent in the Philippine Basketball Association this season with his solidly built 240-lb frame.

Listed at 6-foot-7, Greer was the top scorer for the De Paul University Blue Devils during the 2005 US NCAA season, averaging 18.3 points per game in his senior year.

Red Bull Barako head coach Yeng Guiao said Greer is arriving today from the US to complete the roster of imports for the coming Reinforced Conference starting on Oct. 2.

Small forward

Scouting reports said Greer played as a small forward but could also move up either as power forward or center when the need arises.

Armed with a decent outside touch, he can also take his man off the dribble, the scouting report added.

Expected to man the slot along with Rico Villanueva, EJ Feihl and rookie Paolo Bugia, Greer was the last import taken in since clubs began looking for reinforcements early last month.

Fiesta Cup defending champion San Miguel Beer has hired Rico Hill, Barangay Ginebra signed up Mustaff Hoff, Purefoods secured the services of Marquin Chandler while Coca-Cola hooked up with Alex Carcamo. Six-foot-5 Sean Daniels, listed at 250 lb, will beef up Air21.

Lenny Cooke, who had stints with Purefoods in the past, suits up for Sta. Lucia Realty, Damien Cantrell will again play for Talk 'N Text and Alaska got Tee McClary, Coca-Cola's import when the Tigers won the Reinforced title in 2002.

Shuttlers just won't lose heart

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINO BADMINTON PLAYERS —suddenly a center of attention in the coming Southeast Asian Games—just won't let a recent uninspiring overseas stint dampen their spirits.

Head coach Martin Araneta earlier lamented the country's "disappointing" performance in the tough Chinese Taipei satellite event where the Filipinos could only come up with a single round-of-16 finish.

"There are a lot of things to work on, but the good thing is that we are starting to realize how we'd stand in the SEA Games," said Araneta just before he shepherded the 20-strong team to Guangzhou, China, last Saturday for their last training stint before the Games.

The team will stay train for one month at the Guangdong Sports Center where the best shuttlers from the Chinese mainland, like world standouts Lin Dan and Zhang Ning, first honed their skills.

MEMBERS of the 20-strong national badminton team with PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan (center, wearing a tie) and PBA executive vice president Edgardo Aglipay (in yellow shirt). ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Foreign exposure

But the RP coach said they won't let that Taipei experience—the country's first foreign exposure for the SEA Games—affect their preparations for the biennial competitions.

It was, in fact, the first time the country has sent a full team to an international competition, according to Philippine Badminton Association secretary general Edgardo Aglipay.

The Philippines has been holding tune-up matches the past few months with crack teams from Malaysia and Indonesia, losing on both occasions but gaining a measure of experience in the process.

"This is also the first time that badminton has received this kind of attention here in the Philippines," said Araneta. "We are not going to let our country down."

World-ranked siblings

Aside from mixed doubles siblings Kennie and Kennievic Asuncion, who, at No. 22, are the only world-ranked players on the RP roster, the Philippines will be represented by 16 other talents who rose from the ranks of collegiate and commercial leagues.

Also wearing the RP colors are four-time UAAP Most Valuable Player and 2005 In Flights men's singles champion Lloyd Escoses, JVC Open men's doubles runner-up Owen Lopez, 2004 Yonex RP Open and JVC Open men's doubles titlists Ian Piencenaves and Arolas Amahit Jr.

Joining the men's team are 2003 UAAP rookie of the year and singles champion Mark Alvin Natividad, RP Open men's doubles runner-up Jaime Junio, 2001 UAAP ROY and 2003 champion Christopher Flores, JVC men's doubles runner-up Marlon Villarin and two-time UAAP MVP Rodel Bartolome.

The women's team is likewise composed of the elite in the national circuit and led by 2003 UAAP ROY and 2003 and 2004 MVP Paula Obanana, Yonex RP Open and doubles champion Irene Chiu, 2004 Yonex RP Open and JVC Open women's doubles runner-up Vanessa Tanco, JVC Open 16-under and 14-under champion Karyn Velez, who is the team's youngest at 15, and 2004 Ben-Gay non-ranking singles champ and 2004 Yonex RP Open runner-up Amanda Carpo.

SPORTSWATCH

Bulicatin, Andoy gain Shell chess finals

JAY Bulicatin and Bryan Jose drew their final round match while Randolf Dalauta hurdled Rodel Alsado to share top honors in the juniors division of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at the Gaisano Mall in Davao City over the weekend. Bulicatin, Jose and Dalauta all finished with 6.5 points after seven rounds of the Swiss system tournament to advance to the national finals of the annual event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. Jan Hondonero actually matched the three players' 6.5-point output but lost the No. 3 spot to Dalauta, who had a superior tiebreak score. Bulicatin claimed the No. 1 berth and the top purse of P5,000 staked in the 20-and-under division. Jerwell Andoy also nipped three others in the tiebreak to top the kiddies side of the event which served as the penultimate leg of an eight-stage nationwide circuit. Andoy trounced Ademar Toleran Jr. in the final round to complete a sweep of the 14-and-under category, although three others—Clark Kent Anabieza, Jeffrey Jay Alonday and John Carl Aunso—also came up with perfect scores. Anabieza and Alonday clinched the next two spots in the national finals with better tiebreak scores.

Paniqui entry tops GCAP 8-Stag Derby

THE UNDERRATED Paniqui entry of Tarlac cocker Bebot Roxas emerged as surprise solo champion with seven wins and one loss in last week's GCAP Super Big Event 8-Stag Derby at San Juan Coliseum. But equally impressive are Patrick Antonio's two entries, Sagupaan Complexor 3000 I and II, which tallied 12 wins in 16 fights, good for two runner-up finishes. Meanwhile, a 5-stag one day derby has been slated by GCAP on Wednesday, also at San Juan Coliseum which had its grand opening last week. Submission of weights is set today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call the SJC office at 725-5665, 725-5369 or 727-7086.

50-plus fights up in NCA cockfest

TOP cockfighting action returns today at the Makati Coliseum with the staging of the second leg of the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Stag Derby. More than 50 fights are scheduled in today's event hosted by NCA stalwarts Rudy Albano, Vice Gov. Boyet Joson, Ellan Nagano, Alex Escalona and Frank Berin. Berin's Mulawin B-VGB topped the first NCA stagfest last Sept. 6 and 8. Among the early favorites today are the entries of Gov. Ito Yñares and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

BASILAN Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar (right) signs the agreement for the holding of the 24th PCA Open Tennis Championships from Nov. 28 to Dec. 18. With him is PCA managing director Jesus C. Capulong.

RP confident as Nomura Cup tees off today

NARITA, JAPAN—AN EARLY TEST OF WILL AND power looms large for a talent-laden Philippine team raring to strut its stuff today against defending champion Australia and India in the opener of the Nomura Cup at the Narita Golf Club here.

National team coach Bong Lopez and team captain Gen. Bert Sabularse remain undecided on who to match up with whom to ensure a strong start for the Filipinos in this event also known as the Asia-Pacific Team Championship.

"Personally, I want to start out strong and put (Juvic) Pagunsan and (Artemio) Murakami in the first two flights and hope that (Jay) Bayron and (Erwin) Vinluan will hold their own in the last two," Lopez said.

He added that the power-hitting duo of Pagunsan and Murakami could either take the Nos. 1 and 4 spots, with Bayron and Vinluan in the middle flights, or vice versa.

PAGUNSAN

MURAKAMI

While he sees a fine start for his wards and a successful campaign for the team, Lopez said the Australians remain the biggest title threat despite fielding a virtually new squad this year.

"Although three members of the 2003 champion squad are not around, Australia remains strong since there had been no quality loss, as far as the team's strength is concerned," said Lopez.

Former US amateur champion Nick Flanagan, Richard Moir and James Nitties are no longer around, but Australia remains the biggest stumbling block to the Philippines' bid for a breakthrough win.

The four-day event also serves as part of the RP team's buildup, with support from golf patron Ricky Razon, for the Southeast Asian Games in Manila set Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

Thailand is bringing in a youth brigade which will banner the team's bid in the SEA Games.

Heading the Thais is 16-year-old Anujit Hirunratanakorn, third placer in this year's World Juniors in San Diego. The other members, all 17, are Ekaluk Waisayanakul, Nakarinta Ratanakul and Chinarat Phadungsil, winner of the World Junior title this year.

Japan will try to wrest the title behind Yuta Ikeda, Yuki Ito, Ryoma Iwai and Tatsunori Nukaga.

Dolphins sink Knights . . . From page A21

ing Espinas (36.9 points).

Joining Sagad and Espinas in the Mythical Five were University of Perpetual Help's Khiel Misa, San Beda's Jerome Paterno and San Sebastian's Red Vicente.

Allan Mangahas of the PCU Baby Dolphins won the junior MVP, while Darell Green of the Squires earned the Rookie of the Year award.

The scores:

PCU 79—Castro 21, Espinas 20, Amparado 11, Sanz 10, Belga 8, Solis 5, Cecilia 2, Relaga 2, Salansang 0.

LETRAN 74—Aban 18, Rodriguez 13, Bautista 12, Aldave 11, Piñera 9, Andaya 8, Alcaraz 3, Mondragon 0, Quinday 0, Anabo 0.

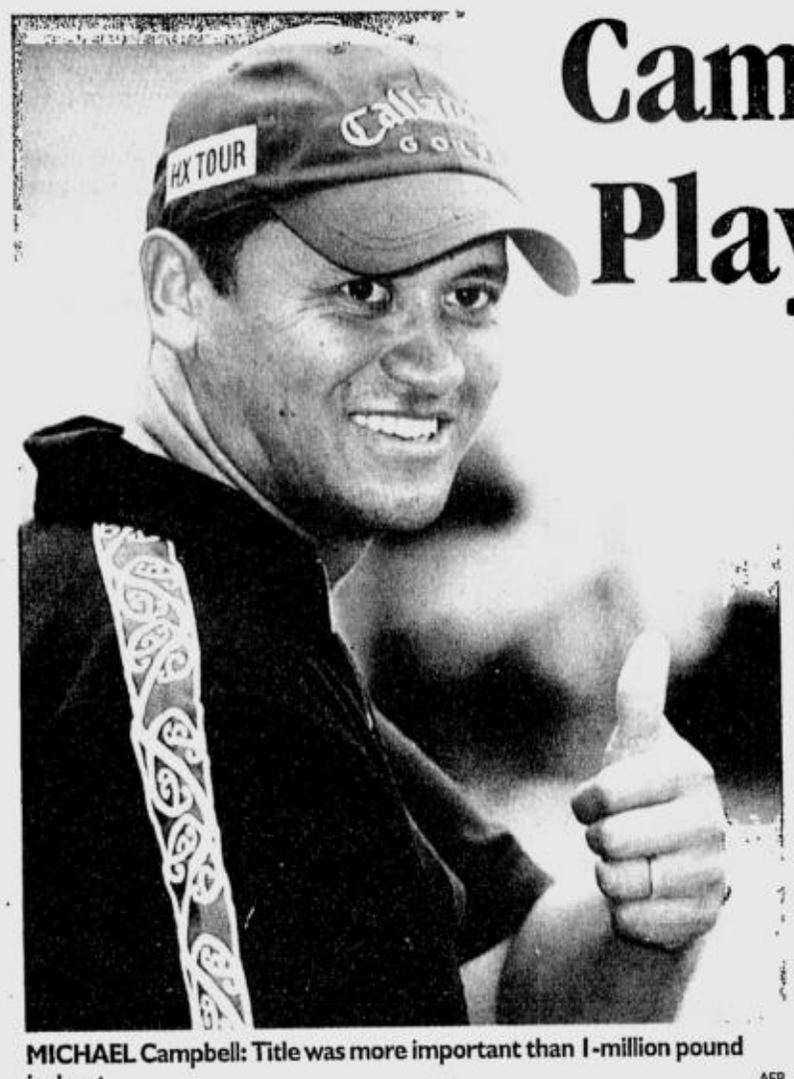
Quarters: 19-20, 44-42, 57-64, 79-74

RACING 7/7/5

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Classic Model 2. Decidido 3. Something Silver
Race 2—1. Lumiere 2. Divine Right 3. Manileño 4.Ikaw Pag Asa Ko
Race 3—1. Blue Face 2. En Carta 3. Prickly Heat 4. I Remain 5. Wild Orphan
Race 4—1. Red Star Rising 2. High Octane 3. Conquer D Sun
Race 5—1. Kim Possible 2. Classic Royale 3. Highly Connected 4. Raven
Race 6—1. Hazit Coming 2. El Love Señora 3. Magic Dancer 4. Schwarzenegger 5. She Jinksy
Race 7—1. American Beauty 2. El Cid 3. D Minnows 4. Last Dance/Sparkling Cool
Race 8—1. Irish Connection 2. Binukalan's Pride 3. Hurry Con nection 4. Princess Adarna 5. Black Peacock 6. Maseratti

Campbell nets $1.8M in Match Play, aspires to be role model



MICHAEL Campbell: Title was more important than 1-million pound jackpot. AFP

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND—MICHAEL Campbell says the addition of the World Match Play title to his US Open crown will help him in his quest to become a role model for youngsters in his native New Zealand.

"My big buzz really is to have some sort of influence on junior golf back home," Campbell said after beating Ireland's Paul McGinley 2 & 1 in Sunday's 36-hole final at Wentworth.

"My legacy one day is to see these top New Zealand golfers, young kids, coming through and winning lots of majors," he added after picking up a check for one million pounds ($1.81 million), the richest first prize in golf.

"I want to be a part of that when I retire, helping financially or helping morally, and coaching. I'll probably have a big part in the development of golf in New Zealand and that's really, really important to me."

Campbell, the second New Zealander, after Bob Charles in 1969, to clinch the Match Play title at Wentworth, said there were several reasons why his form had improved so much this year but refused to go into detail.

"I have worked on a different aspect of my life, not just golf, and people think you work on golf, golf, golf," he said.

"But there are other things that make you tick as a person.

"There's a big universe out there and I worked on a lot of things outside golf.

"That's the bottom line. I'm not going to tell you any more about it but it's personal."

Campbell, who lives on the south coast of England in Brighton, was not disheartened when he endured a rocky patch at the beginning of the season.

"At the start of the year, I missed five cuts in a row. I didn't panic at all," he said.

"I didn't push the panic button, not once, because I knew it was going to work. It was just a matter of time."

For Campbell, the World Match Play title was more important than receiving his one-million pound jackpot.

"I'm financially quite set for my family and for myself but competing and winning tournaments around the world is the mojo," said the New Zealander.

"That's why we play the game. We play for prestige, we play for the honor of being part of history."

Campbell conceded Sunday's final could have gone either way.

"It was very tense and a great tussle today with Paul," said the 36-year-old Kiwi. "He is a wonderful iron player and a great putter.

"It could have gone Paul's way easily. It was like a knife edge really." *Reuters*

Elena seals Russia Fed Cup victory

PARIS—ELENA DEMENTIEVA refused to take the credit for Russia's Fed Cup win.

She should, though.

The eighth-ranked Russian won both of her singles matches and teamed with Dinara Safina to take the deciding doubles match Sunday in the best-of-five series to beat France, 3-2.

"It's not Dementieva's victory," Dementieva said. "We win as a team and lose as a team."

Dementieva and Safina beat Mary Pierce and Amelie Mauresmo, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Dementieva beat both in singles, also.

"She carried the team this weekend," Mauresmo said. "She was so solid."

France captain Georges Goven was impressed also.

"I take my hat off to Dementieva," Goven said. "I knew she was a great athlete, but this time she was exceptional, gave everything she had and fought until the end."

RUSSIANS Elena Dementieva and Dinara Safina (left) jubilate with their coach Shamil Tarpishchev after winning the clinching doubles. AFP

Dementieva sank to her knees in celebration after Mauresmo hit a forehand long on match point at Roland Garros. Russia beat two-time champion France, 3-2, in the final last year in Moscow.

"I've been waiting so long for this," Dementieva said. "I'm so happy."

Both teams were inconsistent in the final match, with seven breaks of serve in the first set. Pierce and Mauresmo dictated the second set as Russia started to look weary.

Pierce hit one forehand so hard that Safina's racket spun out of her hand, and on the next point the ball smacked the Russian on the thigh.

On Sunday, Pierce rallied from 4-1 down in the second set after losing the first to beat 2004 French Open champion Anastasia Myskina, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, to tie the series at 2-2. *AP*

Sorenstam fends off Creamer, keeps title

BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA—Annika Sorenstam hopes her second straight victory at the John Q. Hammons Classic is a springboard to another strong finish to the US LPGA season.

Sorenstam closed with a 2-over 73 and withstood a late charge from American rookie Paula Creamer to win the Hammons Classic for the third time in four years on Sunday.

Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines closed out with a 70 and finished at 218, good for a share of 26th to 31st places and $8,311. Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin ended up at 222 after a 75 and settled for $2,936.

Sorenstam made 15 straight pars to start the final round and overcame bogeys on two of the last three holes to finish one shot ahead of Creamer at 5-under 208 for her seventh tour win in 14 starts this season and 63rd overall. She also won a European Tour event in her native Sweden this year.

After winning the Hammons Classic last year, Sorenstam went on to win three of her next five events and picked up her seventh player of the year award.

"For me, it's important to play good at the end of the year," Sorenstam said. "There's a lot of things that are at stake. We're talking money list, we're talking player of the year, Vare Trophy. Those are goals of mine and they mean a lot.

"A victory here sets me up a little closer to my goals."

Of the eight tournaments she won last year, she has now defended her title in three, tied for second in another and has four left to play—the Office Depot Championship, the Samsung World Championship, the Mizuno Classic and the ADT Championship.

The Office Depot is up next, in two weeks. Just like last year, the victory at the Hammons Classic was Sorenstam's first since June at the McDonald's LPGA Championship. *AP*

Cavite cagers gun for NBC finals berth

CAVITE GUNS FOR THE NORTHERN CONference finals berth today when it faces Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Lyceum gym in Intramuros.

The Far Eastern Insurance-backed Caviteños are slightly favored to close out their best-of-three semifinal series with the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro at 6 p.m.

The Cooking Oil Masters, though, are determined to bounce back from their 60-78 loss in game one and extend the series to the limit.

In the other game at 7:30 p.m., the Boy Bawang-backed Parañaque Jets seek a semifinal berth against Bacchus/Harbour Centre in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Hapee, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Dangerous De La Salle

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE SPEED AND HUSTLE OF DE LA SALLE is such that I will not be surprised if it proceeds to win the UAAP crown this year.

College basketball has always been known to be razzle-dazzle. De La Salle is all that.

And why not?

Open your eyes, bebe.

De La Salle is deadly because it has a Joseph Yeo, the UAAP's M-16 on automatic mode virtually all the time. No player can match up with this kid. Quick as a leopard. Elevates like a kangaroo. Changes direction in a snap.

Toss in the likes of Tang, Araña, Casio, Benitez and Meierhoffer and De La Salle becomes, on any given day, a predator that's as hard as Schwarzenegger to contain.

In seven years as De La Salle's coach, Franz Pumaren has made the Archers UAAP champions five times. It can go six this year if FEU, UE and, yes, Ateneo don't watch it.

De La Salle is peaking mightily and when this trend isn't aborted, green it will be in the UAAP for the sixth time in eight years.

If it's any indication, De La Salle's last two victories were virtual massacres against its arch rival Ateneo and University of the East, the former UAAP king from another era that is now reduced to a mere scheming gatecrasher at least the last couple years.

FEU is presently the top favorite and Ateneo the dark horse.

But De La Salle is not just knocking at the door now. It is banging away at the door with a force that may yet prove unstoppable once the door gets ajar.

And all because of you, err . . . Yeo.

* * *

Those who failed to watch the Barrera-Peden fight yesterday on Solar Sports, fret not. You didn't miss anything.

Marco Antonio Barrera won a lackluster decision over Robbie Peden of Australia to unify the WBC and IBF 130-lb division in Las Vegas' MGM Arena, but not after dishing off a sleeper of a fight.

Peden had the nickname "The Bomber," but he was nothing but a dud and I grudgingly gave him two rounds, more for his Ali shuffle antics than anything.

Had Manny Pacquiao been Barrera's opponent again yesterday, I'd say Pacman might have battered "The Baby-Faced Assassin" a second time, the way Pacquiao knocked Barrera out in the 11th round in November 2003.

Barrera could not knock out Peden even when he tagged the Aussie a number of times in the face. And those were solid shots. That is why I still could not figure out until now how he beat Erik Morales twice during the three times they fought.

And speaking of Morales, well, he beat Pacquiao last March fair and square. Morales had fought his game plan to the letter. And, for almost 12 rounds, Pacquiao could not unlock the bolt of mystery Morales had cast on our Pacman.

However, in that now-infamous loss Morales suffered at the hands of Zahir "The King" Raheem 10 days ago in Los Angeles, El Terrible had been simply outboxed and outfoxed.

What Morales used to defuse the bombs on Pacquiao's fists, Raheem used against him for 12 rounds. Raheem used non-stop dancing in deflating Morales' vaunted punching power to earn what to me wasn't a shocking unanimous decision victory.

While a boxing match usually makes us feel good if it ends in a knockout, boxing is also about not getting hit, that's why it is called the "sweet science." Naturally, it's better if a fighter could dance and at the same time knock out his opponent. Very few are like that: Ali, Leonard, Robinson.

The most common error of good fighters is when they chase an opponent that loves to dance. Pacquiao fell prey to that and lost to Morales.

Against Raheem, Morales reprised Pacquiao, that's why he lost.

That was no mystery at all.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Tom Garcia's dear buddy, Boy Ramos of Cagayan de Oro City, passed away last Sunday. Boy's remains will be buried tomorrow. Boy, 64, was a member of both CdO's Camp Evangelista and Pueblo de Oro, the beautiful course that is now almost a cinch to clinch the hosting rights of the 2006 Philippine Open. The last time I saw Boy, an amiable fellow, was in Bacolod during the PAL Interclub. He will be missed.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Gejon seeks WBA crown this Sunday

SAYING he is through with the hard part of his training, Filipino Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon left for Japan last Sunday with only one mission in mind: Bring home the world title.

The lanky and undefeated Gejon (21-0-1, 13 KOs) took a Philippine Airlines flight, accompanied by chief trainer Brix Flores and conditioning coach Robert Bubuli, to keep his championship date with World Boxing Association minimumweight titlist Yutaka Niida on Sept. 25.

Gejon will challenge Niida at the 20,000-capacity Yokohama Arena given more than an equal chance to capture a second world crown for RP following the success of Fil-American Brian Viloria in his quest for the WBC light flyweight last Sept. 11.

His manager, Rex "Wakee" Salud, departs next week together with Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao, some members of Philippine media and Salud's business associates.

"God knows how much I've prepared for this fight," said Gejon in Cebuano. "My manager and my team are ready to go. This will be a quality fight." *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

SHAKEY'S GIRLS VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL LEAGUE

COLEGIO SAN AGUSTIN, HOPE CHRISTIAN lead

Defending Champion Colegio San Agustin and Hope Christian School pull off victories for identical 6-0 slate in the Shakey's Girls Volleyball League in Groups A and B last weekend crushing defenses of their opponents U.P. Integrated School 25-5, 25-10 and E. Rondon High School 25-15, 25-16 respectively. In the succeeding games De La Salle Lipa girl spikers whipped Miriam 25-12, 25-12 with consistent kills by Regine Diego and Izel Lopez taking advantage of a crippled Miriam team whose top players were still injured.

University of Santo Tomas girls squad romped off a 2-set win over Grace Christian 25-7, 25-12 while St. Francis of Assisi beat ICA Greenhills 25-4, 25-17 early last Sunday.

University of the East fashioned a convincing 3-setter win Sunday over De La Salle Lipa 23-25, 25-17 and 25-16. Imus Institute dealt Miriam College its fourth straight loss. Imus Coach Luis Llanera was only too happy to have averted a shut-out by surprising Miriam 25-13, 21-25,25-20 Sunday afternoon.

Assured of Top 7 berths in the October 1st cross-over are Colegio San Agustin, University of the East, De La Salle Lipa, Hope Christian, University of Santo Tomas, St. Francis of Assisi Bacoor and E. Rondon High School. It will be either Phil. Institute of QC or Miriam for the 8th slot which will be decided by the quotient

NEXT GAME:
CROSS-OVER - Oct. 1, Saturday
9am-3pm, Miriam HS Gym
SEMIS - Oct. 2, Sunday
9am-3pm, Miriam HS Gym
FINALS - Oct. 9, Sunday
10am-4pm, UST Gym

DUNKIN' DONUTS CHEER-DANCE COMPETITIONS

A special treat awaits the audience during both the semi-finals and finals as Dunkin Donuts will stage the Cheerdance Competitions.

Cora Lugtu, Dunkin Donuts' Marketing Manager said, *"Dunkin Donuts would like to take a front seat role in molding the values of the youth and what better way to do this than a high impact and fun activity like Cheerdancing"*

This 14-member league is sponsored by Shakey's and Dunkin Donuts in association with Fruit-tella Cream Lollilop, Toby's Sports, Fame & Fortune and Inquirer 2bU.

Seen from left to right: Mitch Schlachterman - Marketing Manager GVIL, Freddie Infante - Project Director GVIL, Aris Bernabe - Marketing Manager, Dunkin Donuts and Patrick Malins - Chairman of the Board of Judges

sponsored by: Shakey's DUNKIN' DONUTS

supporting sponsors: TOBY'S Inquirer 2bU Fame & Fortune

A Did You Know...

RAYMOND **Bagatsing** is an avid practitioner of the African-Brazilian martial art, Capoeira. The actor says, "It's like gymnastics, dancing with a lot of high kicks," the actor says of his new passion.

Bagatsing, who also dabbled in ballet, attends Capoeira classes with fellow "Hollywood Dream" finalist **Rafael Rosel**. "I'm a weird guy," he admits.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS TOMORROW

"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2005!" – ROGER EBERT CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

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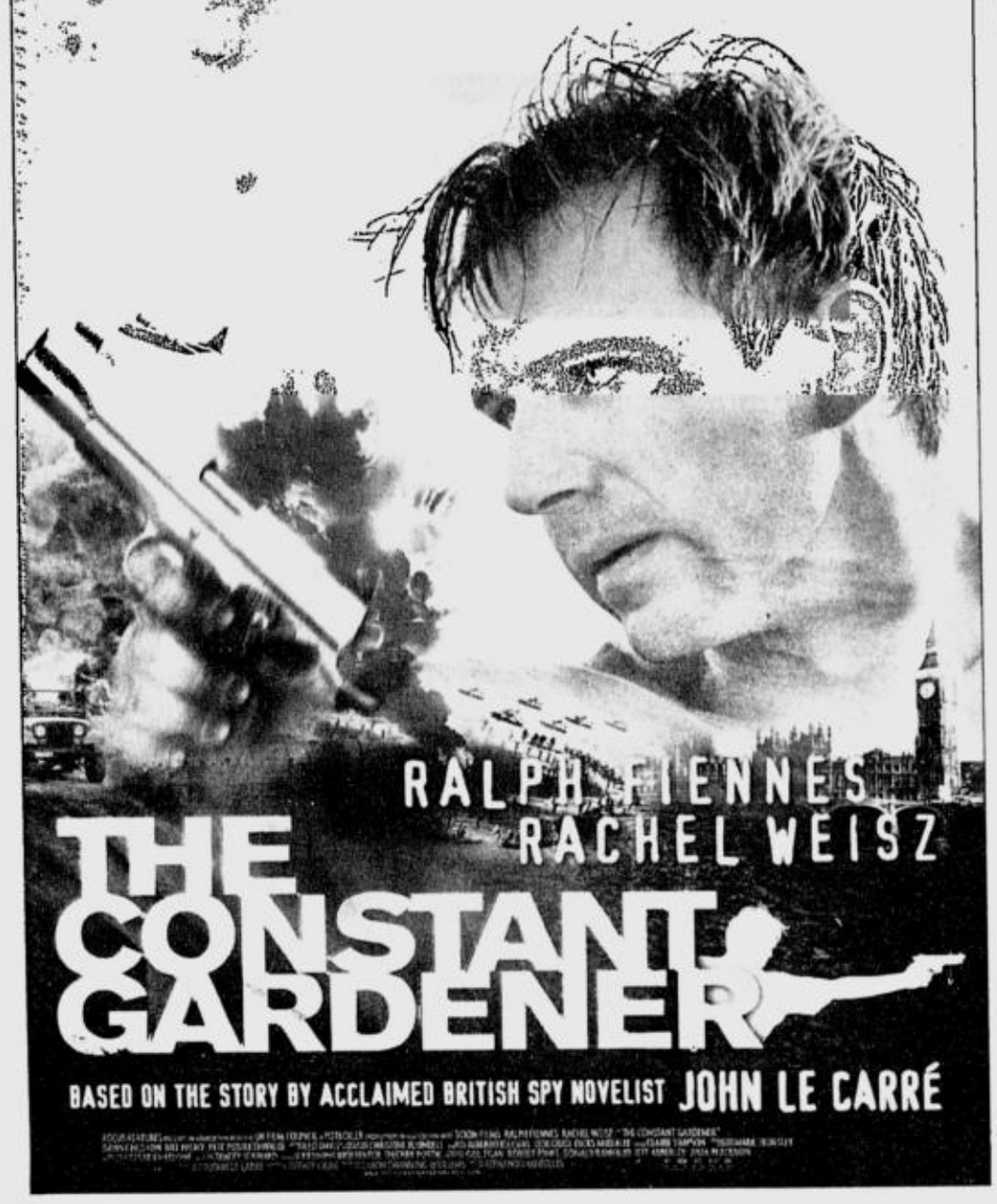
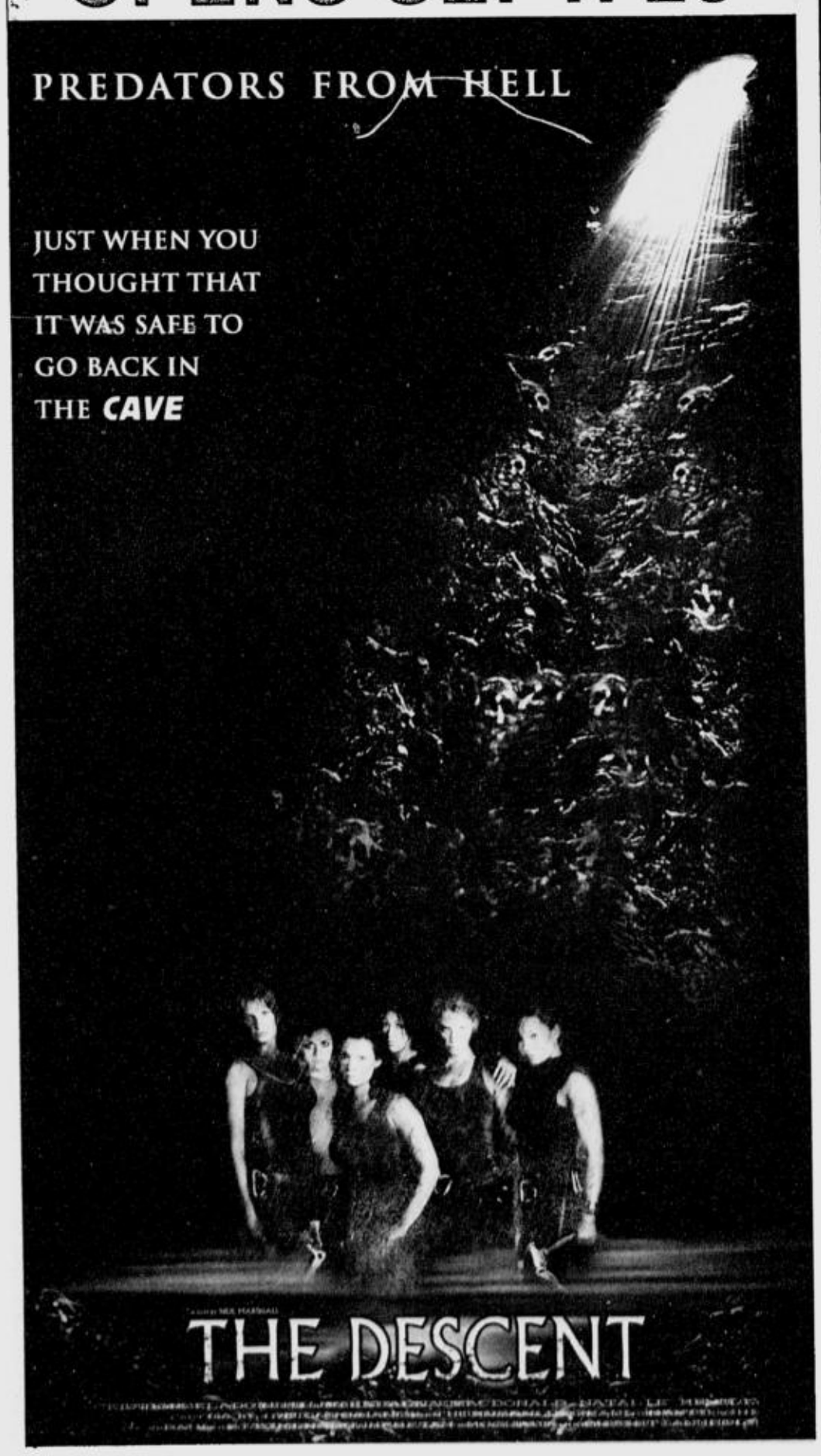


OPENS SEPT. 28



No use denying it, Maui!

From page A28

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINDERELLA MAN MTRCB PG-13 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10:00
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER MTRCB PG-13 12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00
3 RED EYE MTRCB PG-13 12 40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10 00
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM MTRCB PG-13 1 45, 4.30, 7:15, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE SKY HIGH MTRCB GP 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
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Shangri-La Plaza

genre.

"There are minimal special effects to underline emotions and sentiments," explained Direk Joel. "When Maricel is happy, the flowers bloom, the sun shines, birds fly or butterflies flutter about. When she's sad, the flowers wither, or it rains." It will really be a different viewing experience."

Watch Vietnam Rose as it goes in full bloom weeknights on ABS-CBN's Primetime Bida.

'Sisters in Christ'

IT'S always a delight to be a guest on "Homeboy." **Boy Abunda** and I fondly call each other "Sister in Christ." (Thanks a mil, SIC, for the kind words about IC in your widely read column. You are his ultimate role model. That's enough to assure me that my *dalagita* is on the right track!) The episode was all about the joys and pains of motherhood. I enjoyed swapping anecdotes/tips with the other guests, **Ina Raymundo** and **Jessa Zaragosa**. Ina and I looked back on her tumultuous years as a sexy star. I remember interviewing her *lola* in Bulacan, who was on the verge of disowning her when she did "Burlesk Queen Ngayon." That's all behind her now. Ina leads a quiet life with her Canadian hubby Bryan and their two kids. I had never seen her happier.

Jessa apparently has also found what she thought she never would. She said she had no regrets about quitting at the peak of her singing career to become Mrs. **Dingdong Avanzado**. Don't miss "Homeboy" on Thursday, 10:30 a.m, ABS-CBN 2. I guarantee it will make you laugh and cry in equal parts.

Photo tilt

THE PHOTO tilt-exhibit of the Movie Writers & Press Photographers Association of the Philippines, dubbed "Pitik-Larawan 2005," opens Sept 24 , 5 p.m., at Gateway Cineplex Hallway, Araneta Center, Q.C Added attraction is a display of rare photos of the late great FPJ. It will surely be a star-studded affair. Ms. **Susan Roces** tops the guest list. Exhibit will run till Sept 30. Check it out

(E-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykar-tracing.com)

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3 (DTS) CINDERELLA MAN
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2 RESERVED
3 LOVE STRUCK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SOUND OF THUNDER
5 CINDERELLA MAN

MARIKINA Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 THE EYE INFINITE
3 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LIPSTICK

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 LIPSTICK
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
6 LOVE STRUCK

Center Mall Cinema Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVE STRUCK

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LOVE STRUCK
2 VALIANT
3 (DTS EX) CINDERELLA MAN
4 LONGEST YARD

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 VALIANT
3 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
4 (DTS) LONGEST YARD

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LOVE STRUCK
2 SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
3 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
4 (DTS) EVIL EYE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) DAY AFTER TOMORROW
2 KANGKONG
3 LIPSTICK
4 (DTS) CRASH

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CINDERELLA MAN
2 HOTDOG
3 (DTS) DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKELETON KEY
5 LOVE STRUCK

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE GREAT RACE
2 SKY HIGH
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVE STRUCK

stormall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (LAS PIÑAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BEWITCHED
2 THE GREAT RACE

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 WWXXX.COM
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Rock Star' face-off tomorrow

From page A28

ther sing. He also started performing at a very young age.

His experiences are wide and varied. He fronted a band, joined the army, made a living impersonating Elvis, and wrote songs for a TV show in Ontario.

JD earlier drew flak for being cocky toward the other rockers at the mansion where they stayed. But he said nothing he did was "malicious or personal."

At the risk of total alienation, JD was also the one who most often expressed his desire to win.

"This may sound a little corny," he said, "but... INXS is one of the main reasons I became a singer-songwriter. When I was 11, I wanted to save enough money to buy a guitar to play [their song] 'Devil Inside.'"

There is a considerable age difference between him and the members of INXS, but JD is undaunted. "Music is a language," he said. "Anybody of any age who can speak the language should be allowed to join the conversation."

What will make him shine in the finals?

"I'll just be myself," he said. "MiG and Marty are dynamic performers. I wouldn't say any one of us is brighter than the others, just different."

An eminently viewable film for lovers of drama and boxing alike

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"CINDERELLA MAN" IS A BOXING DRAMA with a difference: Before it beats up its protagonist in the ring, it takes the time to provide enough background information for viewers to empathetically feel everything that happens to him.

Thus does director **Ron Howard** avoid the usual problem that besets boxing movies: The fisticuffs take place out of emotional context, so they quickly lose their ability to involve the audience beyond their action or shock value.

Some people feel that Howard went overboard in setting up his protagonist, **James Braddock**'s heartrending personal story, but we don't agree. If this is emotional blackmail, we believe that it's merited by the movie's theme and intent—in other words, why it was filmed in the first place.

It's clear from viewing Howard's film that his movie intends to do much more than just satisfy viewers' thirst for pugilistic violence. He wants to use Braddock's story as a rigorous but eventually inspiring example of the power of love, and the indomitability of the human spirit.

For the denouement to be especially triumphant, however, Braddock's woes must start from the very depths of despair.

That exceedingly low point is provided by the great depression in the United States in the 1930s, when even bank executives lost everything they had and were forced to work as dock hands to keep their families from starving to death.

Braddock was a promising pugilist who had never been knocked out after more than 70 fights, but he had fallen on bad times, so his wife and three children soon found themselves brutally choked by the vise of utter penury.

Seeing them in such dire straits, Braddock swallowed his pride and begged his former colleagues in the boxing world to give him another chance. Luckily for him, his former manager still believed enough in him to do just that.

Motivated by his desperate need to rescue his family from the pits of starvation, Braddock did the impossible and started defeating his foes in the ring—all the way to his title fight versus heavyweight champion Max Baer!

The prospect was thrilling, but it also scared Braddock's wife, especially after she learned that the brutish champion had killed two of his opponents in the ring.

This fearsome prospect gives the film its final sense of crisis, but Howard opts to end his movie on an upbeat note, as well he should. Properly primed by the film's early emotional scenes, viewers are with Braddock all the way, and virtually demand his thematic apotheosis.

True, **Renee Zellweger**'s portrayal of Braddock's wife, Mae, is occasionally too emotionally florid, but **Russell Crowe** as Braddock, the three young actors who play their children, and **Paul Giamatti** as Braddock's manager all turn in faultless and peerless performances that clutch at the heart without gilding the emotional lily.

Other weak elements include the not-very-successful effort to make the Depression come thematically to bear on Braddock's personal story, and the sketchy insertion of political and so-

AN EMINENTLY/ A26

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CinePlex*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

CINDERELLA MAN 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CINDERELLA MAN 1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9:35
LOVESTRUCK 12:15 / 2:30 / 4:45 / 7:00 / 9:15	THE LONG WEEKEND 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BLDG. 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	RED EYE 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
THE CROW 4 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	SKY HIGH 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 LOVESTRUCK 12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05	4 LIPSTICK 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	5 THE BROS. GRIMM 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
3 CINDERELLA MAN 12:05 R3 / 2:15 / 5:05 / 7:55	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

NCAA FINALS: GAME 2- SSC-R vs SBC Jrs. 2 pm
September 21, Wednesday CSJL VS PCU Srs 4 pm

UAAP FINAL FOUR
September 22, Thursday

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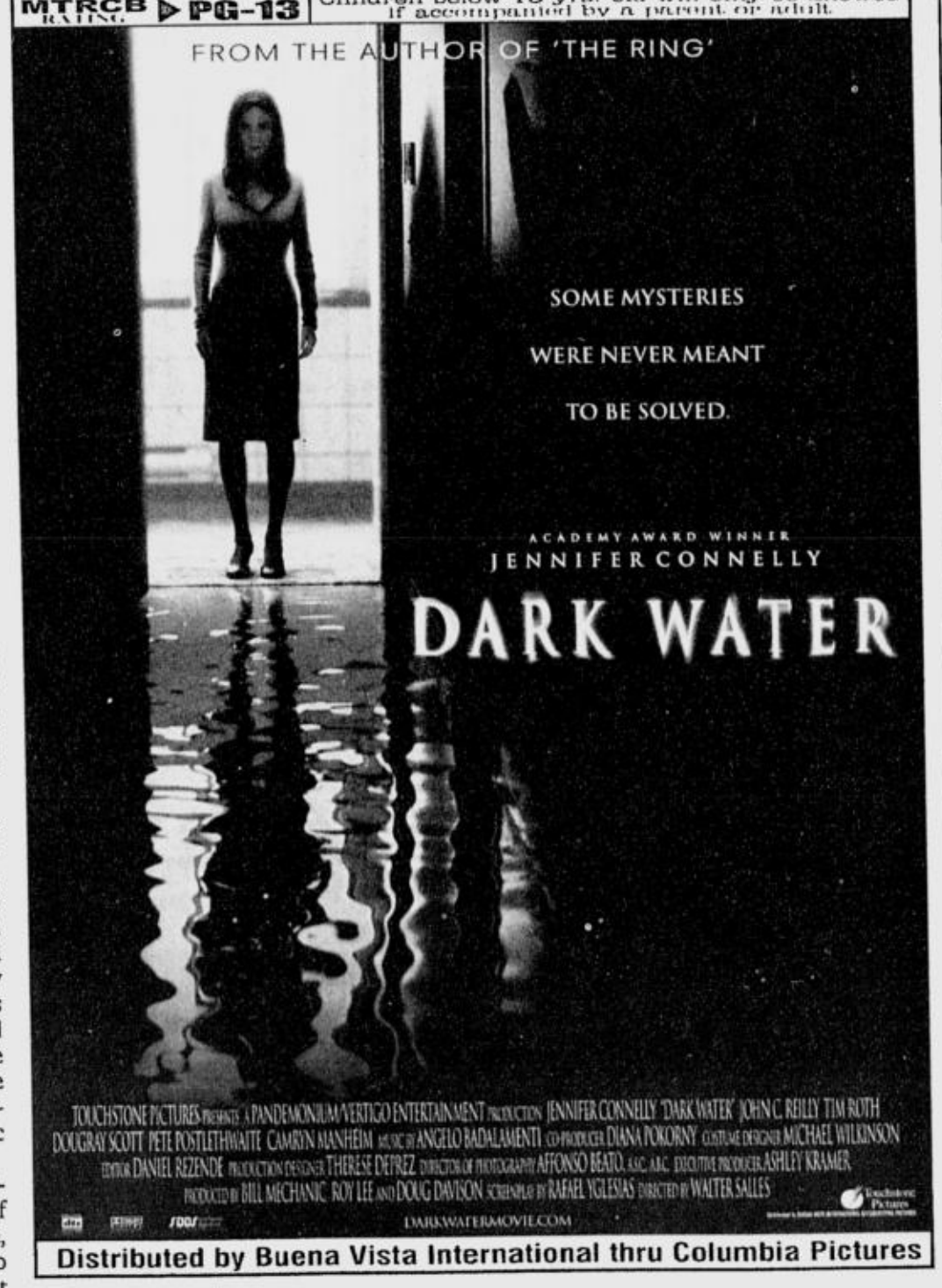
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 RED EYE 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2 CINDERELLA MAN 11:20, 2:20, 5:20 8:20, 11:10 PG-13
3 THE BROTHERS GRIMM 12:10, 2:55, 5:40 8:25, 11:00 PG-13
4 SOUND OF THUNDER 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

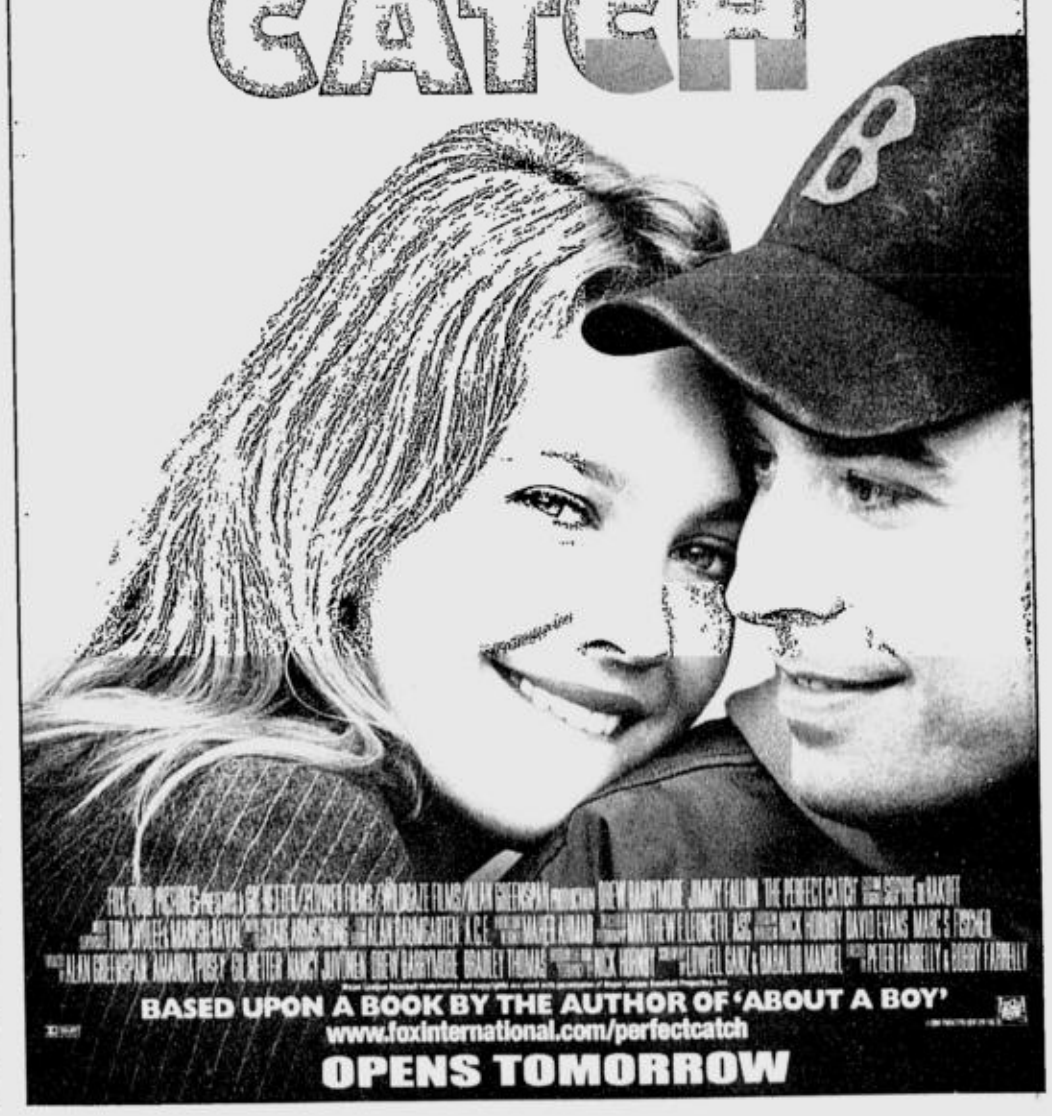
CINDERELLA MAN PG13 2:10,5:00,7:50	BROTHERS GRIMM PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	A SOUND OF THUNDER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
RED EYE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	CINDERELLA MAN PG13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10

FIND OUT THE FRIGHTENING TRUTH
TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
FROM THE DIRECTORS OF 'THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY'
DREW BARRYMORE JIMMY FALLON
She's into work. He's into sports.
Will they ever get into each other?
THE PERFECT CATCH



BASED UPON A BOOK BY THE AUTHOR OF 'ABOUT A BOY'
www.foxinternational.com/perfectcatch
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CINEMA 1 CINDERELLA MAN PG13 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
CINEMA 2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM - PG13 11:20, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 RED EYE PG13 11:30, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25
CINEMA 4 SOUND OF THUNDER - PG13 11:50, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:25
CINEMA 5 CINDERELLA MAN - PG13 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
Sept 15,22,23,24 October 1, 2005 JUAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE" M Y M P 9PM 8:30PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

An eminently viewable film . . .

From page A25

cial issues like unionism and discrimination into the warp and woof of the boxing drama.

But the movie is otherwise too good to be seriously compromised by these occasional lapses. So, "Cinderella Man" remains an eminently viewable film for lovers of drama and boxing alike.

Movies on TV

ON HBO, today at 7:15 p.m., "My House in Umbria." 10:55 p.m., "The Last Samurai." Tomorrow at 2 p.m., "And starring Pancho Villa as Himself."

On Cinemax, today at 5:30 p.m., "The Addams Family." 9 p.m., "Rabbit-Proof Fence." Tomorrow at 7:30 a.m., "East of Eden." 7:30 p.m., "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

On Star Movies, today at 7:25 p.m., "Murder in the Hamptons." Tomorrow at 9 p.m., "The Vault."

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Who to you are today's heroes?

Guest: For continuing with their mission despite the dangers involved, I think some of today's heroes are the usherettes from space!

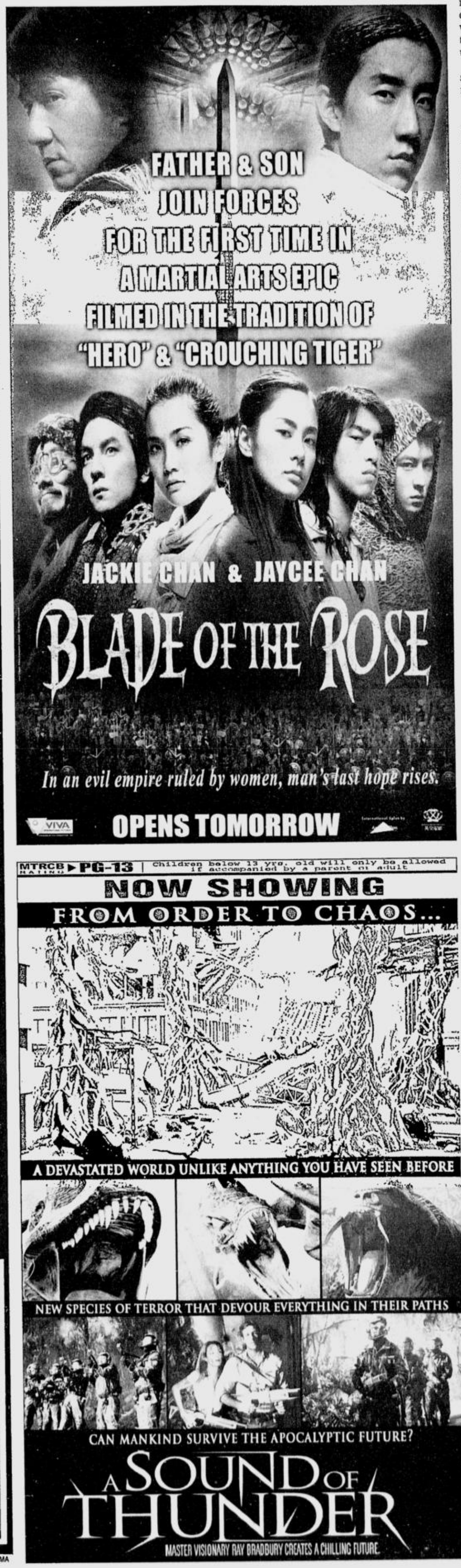
(Usherettes from space?—Oh, astronauts!)

* * *

Host: What's up next on our show tonight?

Co-host: Now, it's time to give our viewers our local and international weather forecasts.

(*Ay*, weather forecasts.)



Everybody loves . . .

From page A28

"The Amazing Race" was named Outstanding Reality-Competition Program for the third time.

The directing and writing awards for a drama series were split between two new hit shows. "Lost" won the former and "House" took the latter.

Geoffrey Rush was honored as Best Actor in a Miniseries or Movie for "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers," HBO's dramatic take on the comic actor which also claimed writing and directing awards.

S. Epatha Merkerson was named Best Actress in a Miniseries or Movie for "Lackawanna Blues," on HBO, and proceeded to charm the audience by announcing that her acceptance speech, which she'd tucked into her bosom, had slipped down and couldn't be retrieved.

"Desperate Housewives" won the comedy series directing award while the writing trophy went to Fox's "Arrested Development."

HBO's "Warm Springs," which dramatized Franklin D. Roosevelt's battle against polio before becoming president, was named Best TV Movie. Best Miniseries trophy went to PBS' "The Lost Prince."

Eclectic votes

Earth, Wind & Fire kicked off the show at the Shrine Auditorium with a revamped version of its song "September," paying tribute to the TV season past. The Black Eyed Peas jumped in with a few rap verses, including a Martha Stewart lyric: "Went to jail, got a show, that's the way entertainment goes."

Emmy voters were in an eclectic mood, scattering the awards to a variety of winners and keeping even top winners to modest hauls. "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers" and "Everybody Loves Raymond" each won three awards Sunday, while "Lost" and "Desperate Housewives" claimed two.

Premium channel HBO emerged as the most-honored with a total of 27 awards, including seven honors Sunday and 20 trophies given at last week's Creative Arts Emmys recognizing technical and other achievements.

ABC received a total of 16 awards, followed by CBS with 11, NBC and PBS with 10 each and Fox with six. *AP*

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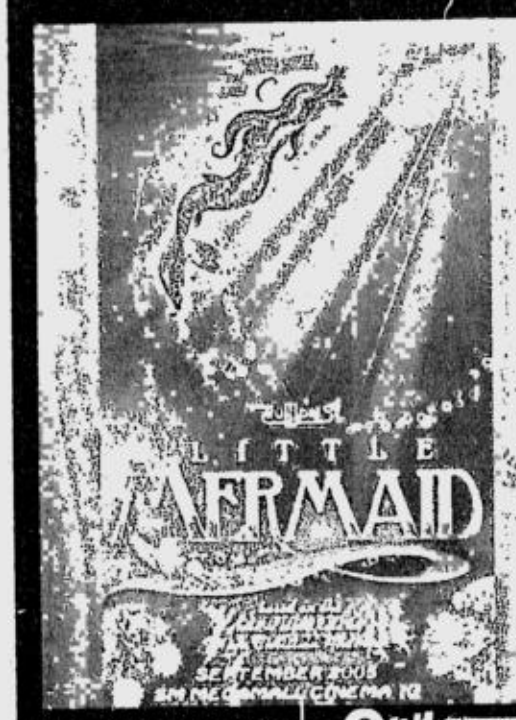

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MEGAMALL: TRUMPETS LITTLE MERMAID, September 13-17, 20-24, Cinema 10

SM movietime
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 SOUND OF THUNDER 01:45FS/02:10MF/04:25/06:40 08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:45END
2 CINDERELLA MAN 02:15FS/02:45MF/05:50 08:20LFS/09:00LFS/11:25END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE CAVE 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM 11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 SOUND OF THUNDER 11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36 09:20LFS/09:30LFS/11:15END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
5 BROTHER GRIMM
6 THE CAVE
7 EVIL EYES
8 LONG WEEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 RED EYE
12 SKY HIGH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LOVESTRUCK
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 THE CAVE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 BROTHER GRIMM
8 SKY HIGH
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 EVIL EYES
11 RED EYE
12 LONGEST YARD

SM NORTH EDSA
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 STARSTRUCK SEARCH
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 RED EYE
7 CINDERELLA MAN
8 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY STA MESA
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 RED EYE
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 LONGEST YARD
9 LAZARUS CHILD
10 SKY HIGH

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 SKY HIGH
7 THE CAVE
8 RED EYE
9 LONGEST YARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHER GRIMM
3 SKY HIGH
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 RED EYE
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 LOVESTRUCK
11 EVIL EYES
12 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SOUND OF THUNDER
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM SAN LAZARO
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RED EYE
4 CINDERELLA MAN
5 THE CAVE
6 LOVESTRUCK

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 LONGEST YARD
4 RED EYE
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE CAVE
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 RED EYE
8 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 RED EYE
2 LONGEST YARD
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 ARAHAN

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 THE CAVE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SKELETON KEY
2 LOVE STRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 SKY HIGH
5 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
6 RED EYE
7 LOVESTRUCK
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD
7 RESERVED
8 EVIL EYES

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 MAN OF THE HOUSE
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 LONGEST YARD
6 SKY HIGH

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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SEP 17 SM SAN LAZARO, CINEMA 1
SEP 24 SM STA MESA, CINEMA 1
OCT 01 SM MEGAMALL, CINEMA 3
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4:00 to 6:00 PM SCREENING
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GMA

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Sept. 24 SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
Oct. 01 SM Megamall Cinema 3

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM • THX 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	6 THE CAVE 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
2 CINDERELLA MAN 1:20 4:20 7:00 9:50	7 RED EYE 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
3 WILD SIDE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	8 THE LONG WEEKEND 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
4 THE CROW 4 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	9 A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 LOVESTRUCK 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 MUST LOVE DOGS 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LOVESTRUCK	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 THE CAVE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 RED EYE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 CINDERELLA MAN 12:00 2:50 5:00 7:30 9:50	6 A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
4 THE CROW 4 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE LONG WEEKEND 1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00	5 SKY HIGH 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 THE CAVE 1:35 4:00 6:25 8:50	6 RED EYE 12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05	7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
4 CINDERELLA MAN 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00	8 LOVESTRUCK 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 / PIONEER 687-5378

1 RESERVE	1 CINDERELLA MAN
2 LOVESTRUCK	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 SKY HIGH	3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RESERVE	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907 / LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 LOVESTRUCK	1 SKY HIGH
2 CINDERELLA MAN	2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKELETON KEY	3 THE GREAT RAID
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	4 SKELETON KEY

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 / ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 LOVESTRUCK	1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 THE GREAT RAID	2 LOVESTRUCK
3 EVIL EYES	3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
4 THE LONGEST YARD	4 CINDERELLA MAN

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1 RED EYE	1 EVIL EYES
2 CINDERELLA MAN	2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CAVE	3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 LOVESTRUCK	4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
	5 CINDERELLA MAN
	6 RED EYE

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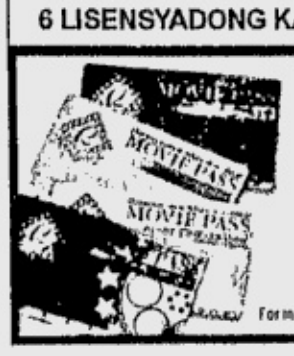
1 SKY HIGH	1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 MUST LOVE DOGS	2 LOVESTRUCK
3 VALIANT	3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 SKELETON KEY	4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 LOVESTRUCK	
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO	



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	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 SKY HIGH	6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	7 LOVESTRUCK
GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	1 CINDERELLA MAN 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20		2 LOVESTRUCK 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	
GB3 (GREENBELT 3)	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX CINDERELLA MAN 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 LONG WEEKEND 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 RED EYE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)	1 THX CINDERELLA MAN		2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	
	3 LOVESTRUCK	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER	5 RED EYE	
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Everybody loves 'Raymond' one more time

LOS ANGELES—EVERYBODY loved "Raymond" one more time at the Emmys, honoring the show as Best Comedy series for its final season and denying the prize to newcomer "Desperate Housewives." But another first-year hit, "Lost," won Best Drama honors.

"All year long they've been asking us, 'Do you think, now that your show is going, that this means the end of the sitcom?'" "Raymond" executive producer Phil Rosenthal said dryly Sunday. "I want to say, yes."

Felicity Huffman and Patricia Arquette became first-time Emmy winners as they received lead actress honors while Tony Shalhoub and James Spader once again proved favorites in the Best Actor category.

"I've turned into one of those actresses and I'm sorry," Huffman, who plays an overwhelmed homemaker on ABC's "Desperate Housewives," said as she teared up at the start of her acceptance speech.

She thanked "the women of Wisteria Lane," her co-stars Marcia Cross and Teri Hatcher—also nominees in the category—and Eva Longoria.

Arquette, who plays a crime-solving psychic in NBC's "Medium," won the Best Drama Series Actress award.

UPSET victory for the cast of "Everybody Loves Raymond," here seen backstage at the 57th annual Prime Time Emmy Awards in LA.

Thanks, mom

Shalhoub was named Best Actor in a Comedy Series for "Monk."

"To my fellow nominees, I just want to say, there's always next year. Except, you know, for Ray Romano," he said, jokingly.

Spader was named Best Dramatic Actor for "Boston Legal" for his portrayal of a lawyer with an ethics problem—his second consecutive win.

"I'd like to thank the academy and I'd like to thank my mother and I'd like to thank my mother again, because I forgot to thank her last year," he said.

Other past Emmy favorites grabbed trophies at Sunday's ceremony, with Brad Garrett and Doris Roberts of "Everybody Loves Raymond" and William Shatner of "Boston Legal" receiving Best Supporting Actor honors.

Garrett received his third Emmy for the CBS sitcom and Shatner received his second Emmy for the character of egotistical lawyer Denny Crane, which also had first been featured on "The Practice."

Roberts appeared on stage with two grandsons at her side.

"This is the icing on the cake," she said, accepting her fourth trophy for her role as a meddling mother-in-law. "Nine wonderful years on 'Everybody Loves Raymond' and to finish it off with this is wonderful."

Blythe Danner was named Best Supporting Actress in a drama for Showtime's "Huff."

"I think my husband Bruce Paltrow is up there, stirring this up for me," Danner said, making a sentimental reference to her late husband, a director.

FELICITY Huffman with hubby William H. Macy at post-awards ball.

The ceremony included a tribute to late-night king Johnny Carson, the "Tonight" show host who died this year, with David Letterman remembering the man who entertained America and was mentor to so many comedians.

For their supporting acting work in a miniseries or a movie, Paul Newman was honored for "Empire Falls" and

EVERYBODY/ A26

ROUNDUP

US-Canada's top 10

LOS ANGELES—"Just Like Heaven," the Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo romantic comedy, debuted at No. 1 with an estimated $16.5 million in ticket sales, bumping the courtroom horror film "The Exorcism of Emily Rose" into second place.

Said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations: "Reese Witherspoon is always a draw."

"Lord of War," starring Nicolas Cage as an arms dealer pursued by Interpol agent Ethan Hawke, debuted in third place with $9.2 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters: 1.) "Just Like Heaven," $16.5M; 2.) "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," $15.3M; 3.) "Lord of War," $9.2M; 4.) "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," $5.8M; 5.) "Cry Wolf," $4.6M; 6.) "The Transporter 2," $4M; 7.) "The Constant Gardener," $3.7M million; 8.) "Red Eye," $2.9M; 9.) "March of the Penguins," $2.6M; 10.) "Wedding Crashers," $2.5M million.

James Dean on DVD

WARNER Home Video marks James Dean's 50th death anniversary with the release of "The Complete James Dean Collection," a DVD gift set that includes "East of Eden," "Rebel Without A Cause" and "Giant." The DVDs' special features include documentaries, commentaries, deleted scenes and behind-the-scenes segments, and screen tests. The collections costs P2,100.

Star City now open

STAR City at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard officially welcomed this year's holiday season last weekend. Saturday was an evening of stargazing, with "Starstruck" winners Jennilyn Mercado, Mark Herras, Yasmiem Kurdi, Rainier Castillo, Rysa Senon, Mike Tan, LJ Reyes and CJ Muere as guests.

The theme park's latest attraction is Kong! which features creatures from the Triassic Age. This is on top of the over 30 popular rides, including the Zyklon Loop, Pirate Ship, Flying Carpet, Wild River Ride and the all-time favorite walk-throughs, Lion King and The Mummy.

Also ongoing is Circus de Ballet's production of "Lahi," which continues to draw crowds to the Star Theater.

Star City's holiday hours are 4 p.m. onwards on weekdays and 1 p.m. onwards on weekends. Pay P50 for entrance and P200 for ride-all-you-can tags.

'Rock Star' face-off tomorrow

By Fran Katigbak

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

THE FINAL FACE-OFF ON "ROCK STAR: INXS" boils down to Fil-Australian MiG Ayesa, American Marty Casey and Canadian JD Fortune. The grand finale airs on Star World tomorrow, 9:30 a.m., in Manila.

All three finalists entered the contest with impressive resumes. MiG predicted weeks ago that he would make it up to the last round. He might also have guessed that he would be up against two of the toughest contenders in the reality show created to find a front man for Aussie band INXS.

MiG Ayesa

Although MiG hit bottom-three rankings only once throughout the show, he feels the need to "kick major butt" tomorrow.

TOP 3: Marty, JD and MiG.

"I'm entering the finale as the underdog," the 35-year-old rocker told INQUIRER Entertainment in this exclusive phone interview. "Marty and JD gave really strong performances in the last couple of weeks, while reception to my performances have been a bit lukewarm."

MiG grew up in Australia and built a career in theater, commercials, TV, film and music. He moved to London and starred in a production of the Queen musical "We Will Rock You." Still, he confessed, he had to fight his nerves in the competition.

"I don't get nervous at all in front of a crowd," he said, "[but] I've given up a lot to come here. I've got a wife to support... I was very nervous about not making the finals because it would have meant that all the sacrifice was for nothing."

As the show progressed, INXS felt MiG needed to show a more edgy side, so they chose two "dark" songs for him to perform last week.

"I think they're trying to push me in directions that I'm not normally comfortable with," the rocker said. "I understand that INXS needs to see every facet of our characters."

There was no way he'd hold back anything for tomorrow's show, he added. "I'm giving everything I've got that is MiG. There's no point to try to impress them by doing something that is not me at this point."

Marty Casey

Marty initially thought back flips and breakdancing would grab attention and get people excited. He has learned that "it's more about the eyes and their intensity."

When asked if he wore eye make-up—and how much of it—an amused Marty replied, "I put some black stuff around my eyes but not too much—I never want to wear too much because if I had to go back to Chicago and they found out I wore make-up, I'll get beat up."

Prior to "Rock Star," the 31-year-old rocker played in Chicago with a band called Lovehammers, which he formed when he was 14. He kept it going even after he earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance degree and became a successful real estate appraiser.

The Lovehammers have sold over 12,000 records, according to Marty. They have toured, too, and written materials for film, TV and DVD.

"[If I become INXS' front man] my job is to turn people on... and get a bunch of new fans," Marty said. "I definitely have a vision of what INXS can do in the future. I want to be a part of every decision they make. I don't want to be just a... mouthpiece."

Asked what he thought set him apart from MiG and JD, Marty said he was the best-rounded person on and off-stage. "I've shown my songwriting and performance skills and delivered a wide range of songs, while some people here have stuck to one or the other. Off the stage, I've gotten along really well with INXS. I chill off the stage and save the drama for the performances, and I think they dig that."

If the show doesn't pan out in his favor, Marty said, he would use everything he learned from "Rock Star" for his band. "We'll make an album and take it on tour."

JD Fortune

This 32-year-old artist took a lot of risks arranging—and re-arranging—songs during the competition, since he had no formal training in music.

"I just go by feel," JD admitted.

Raised between Nova Scotia and Toronto, the Canadian rocker grew up listening to his grandfa-

'ROCK STAR'/ A24

There's no use denying it, Maui!

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

AN E-MAIL ABOUT MAUI TAYLOR and **Bryan Revilla**—son of **Lani** and Sen. **Bong**, older brother of Jolo—from bettina_claudette@yahoo.com piqued my curiosity. The reader said she found it quite strange that Maui and Bryan keep denying they are "on," so she sent several shots of the sweet couple. Maui and Bryan could have merely been in a playful mood when these pics were taken or is there really more than meets the eye? Is it friendship without love or love without friendship? With young people these days, you never can tell. If a picture paints a thousand words, are Maui and Bryan here painting a lie or the truth?

Heard that the ex-girlfriend of **James Yap (Nina Hilario)**, whom he allegedly left in the dark, gave birth last September 8 in UST Hospital. James is being tagged as the father. James' fiancée Kris Aquino has repeatedly said that James' past doesn't matter to her and that whatever happiness she enjoys now is already a bonus considering all the trials she has endured . So if James' love is like a "13th month pay" for Kris, is Nina's baby his "cash advance?" We all pay for our sins. Wonder if James kept his receipts.

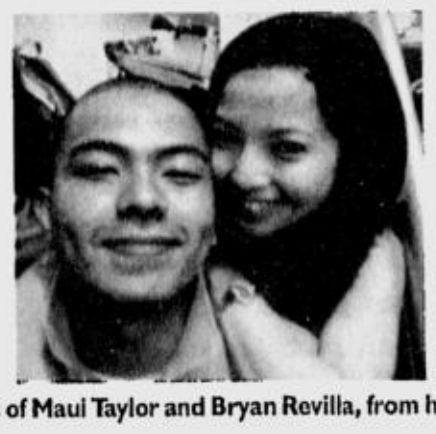
'Vietnam Rose'

ABS-CBN's "Vietnam Rose" is truly epic television, with months of preparation and the winning tandem of **Maricel Soriano** and **Joel Lamangan** leading the project's impressive roster of talents. The network even took the production out to shoot key scenes in Ho Chi Minh City. No stone was left unturned to make this newest *teleserye* a must-see viewing for all fans of quality television drama.

The story centers on the journey of Yeu, (Maricel) a young Vietnamese girl whose life undergoes devastating changes during the Vietnam War. As a child, Yeu discovers that her mother betrayed her father—a soldier fighting for the South Vietnamese forces—by having an affair with a Filipino soldier. The discovery brings about the death of her beloved father. Then events spiral out of control. Soon, Yeu finds herself pushed out of her homeland along with thousands of refugees, known as the "boat people." Finding herself in the Philippines, Yeu is adopted by a Filipino family. She starts to rebuild her life.

Dramatic, complicated, and fully human in its exploration of love, hate, revenge and the attainment of love and happiness despite incredible odds, "Vietnam Rose" is also remarkable for its one-of-a-kind treatment of its story, as it utilizes magical realism—a stylistic device employing surreal or magical elements to make a point about a character or situation, made popular by the late Filipino National Artist **Nick Joaquin** and South American fictionists like **Gabriel Garcia Marquez**. Thus, Lamangan seeks to introduce a new look and texture to distinguish "Vietnam Rose" from the rest of the titles in the *teleserye*.

THERE'S / A24



HERE are some more telling snapshots of Maui Taylor and Bryan Revilla, from her multiply.com site.

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Gov't posts budget surplus of ₱1.75B

VAT seen to further improve fiscal position

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT posted its third monthly budget surplus for the year in August on the back of higher-than-expected revenue collections.

The August surplus of P1.75 billion brought the eight-month budget deficit to P80.82 billion, or way below the ceiling for the period of P120.94 billion.

Total revenue for the month rose by 34 percent to P79.82 billion , higher than the target of P72.7 billion, while total spending of some P78 billion was just above the goal of P77.4 billion, said National Treasurer Omar Cruz.

"If the robust revenue collection is sustained and spending will still be contained in the remaining months of the year, we may be looking at a better-than-target fiscal deficit at the end of the year," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement.

The government's fiscal position is expected to further improve if the expanded value-added tax law is finally implemented. However, new doubts emerged about the VAT law's implementation as the opposition appealed a Supreme Court ruling that upheld the law's constitutionality. Some government officials and lawmakers have also called for the delay in the implementation of certain provisions of the law to ease the economic impact of the tax on the people who are already struggling to cope with the rising oil prices.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, the government's biggest revenue collector, surpassed its revenue target for the month by P2.15 billion with its collection hitting P53.92 billion. The Bureau of Customs, for its part, managed to trim its shortfall to P743 million with its collection reaching P12.1 billion.

The Bureau of Treasury posted P4.41 billion in revenue, higher than its goal of P2.3 billion for the month. Other revenue items reached P9.39 billion, or higher than the programmed P5.85 billion for August.

From January to August, total revenue stood at P530.2 billion, or higher than the target of P521.8 billion. Spending during the period was contained at P610.9 billion, or well below the target of P642.8 billion.

"The priority is to implement the VAT law," Cruz said.

But in case of further delay, Cruz said the government would map out measures to cover foregone revenues.

The government set its budget deficit ceiling at P180 billion for this year, factoring in additional revenues from the VAT law. *With a report from Reuters*

Number and amount of plans sold by pre-need corporations
January-July 2004 & January July 2005

Item	January -July 2005 P/ Number/amount	January -July 2004 R/ Number/ amount	Growth rate (%)
Number of plans sold	203,531	295,448	(31.11)
Education	43,727	81,879	(57.59)
Life	77,995	51,636	51.05
Pension	90,809	161,933	(43.92)
Gross Contract Price	13,367,423,999	22,452,517,681	(40.46)
Education	3,999,330,917	8,059,257,265	(50.38)
Life	2,561,342,759	1,682,162,592	52.26
Pension	6,806,750,322	12,711,097,825	(46.45)
Initial collection	1,402,100,051	2,479,197,195	(43.45)
Education	386,278,339	871,868,928	(55.70)
Life	232,065,809	220,426,333	5.28
Pension	783,755,903	1,386,901,934	(43.49)

SOURCE: SEC

Pyramid scams thrive in pre-need industry

By Daxim L. Lucas and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

(Second of a series)

SEN. MANUEL ROXAS II believes that it is almost impossible to distinguish some pre-need firms like College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) from companies engaging in pyramid scams.

Having waged a campaign against pyramiding and "Ponzi" schemes during his tenure as trade secretary, Roxas knows whence he speaks.

SPECIAL REPORT

"Some pre-need firms are basically pyramid operations," said the lawmaker, who won public office on a consumer advocacy platform. "The bulk of fees paid by new subscribers are used to pay company obligations that are coming due."

In the case of CAP—a scheme mimicked by many industry players—Roxas said only 10 percent of clients' subscription fees are deposited in trust funds for the first two years of the policy. These funds supposedly are managed by independent trustee banks.

Over the next five years, only 50 percent of clients' payments are deposited with the trustee banks. Everything that is not deposited as trust funds are used for the firm's operating expenses.

"Whatever isn't deposited is used to pay off maturing liabilities of the older policy holders," Roxas said. "This is using O.P.M. (other people's money). This is really the definition of 'kiting.'"

To remedy this situation, Roxas has filed a bill aimed at better regulating the pre-need industry and defining accounting standards that are all too loosely interpreted by companies to cook their books.

Accounting magic

Is accounting really killing the pre-need industry?

CAP seems to think. In fact, it has been the most vocal among pre-need firms about how the new set of rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is hurting its business.

In its petition for rehabilitation filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court, CAP claimed that after operating its business for the past two decades, the industry found itself in a bind after the SEC suddenly changed its regulatory guidelines governing pre-need companies. This was aggravated by a regime of uncontrolled tuition fee increases brought about by government deregulation in the early 1990s.

CAP argued that the tighter accounting policies "came about after serious and manifest attempts" failed to place the pre-need industry under the jurisdiction of the Insurance Commission

LEGIT/ B2

INDICATORS

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 16, 2005

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per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 15, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares up on surplus report

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.96 percent higher after the government reported a budget surplus for August, giving investor confidence a boost, dealers said.

They said bargain hunting in the telecommunications stocks also provided support.

The composite index added 18.29 points to 1,928.09 after trading between 1,909.80 and 1,928.94. Volume was 640 million shares worth P819.5 million.

The all-shares index gained 9.36 points to 1,175.82.

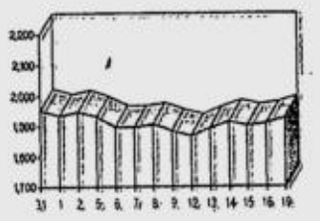
Gainers outnumbered losers 51 to 29, while 38 stocks ended unchanged.

The peso was at 56.24 to the dollar by midday.

"The budget surplus was welcome news. This prompted bargain-hunting in select issues," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

AUGUST SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Peso down on higher demand for dollars

THE PESO YESTERDAY SLID TO 56.295 to $1 from Friday's close of 56.17 due to heavy demand for dollars, mainly for importation, and weak regional currency markets.

In another development, the Bureau of Treasury rejected all bids for Treasury bills at yesterday's auction as banks demanded higher yields ahead of the expected hike in interest rates both here and in the United States this week.

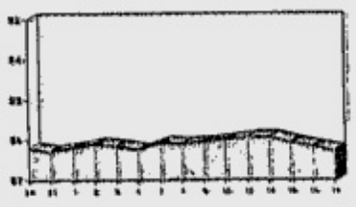
The peso yesterday hovered between 56.21 and 56.295, closing at the day's low at the Philippine Dealing System. Volume turnout stood at $265 million.

The US dollar was firmer in Asian trade yesterday as the euro succumbed to political jitters in Germany, the biggest economy in the euro zone.

Global traders bought dollars on the heels of an election political statement in Germany.

Also, Asian currencies including the Japanese yen tumbled against the US dollar on expectation that the US Fed would continue to tighten monetary policy.

"The markets are also braced for any signal that the Fed tightening cycle is nearing its end, but this month looks too early," said the London-based economic unit of American Express Bank.



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

"Fed officials continue to fret about inflation and are likely to be skeptical that Katrina warrants a policy response," it said.

In the meantime, had the government accepted all T-bill yields yesterday bids, the benchmark 91-day T-bill yield would have surged by 53.8 basis points from 5.773 percent last week. The 182-day and 364-day bills also attracted high yield bids, prompting the government to decide not to accept any tender for any of the three maturities.

Tenders for the P6 billion offering amounted to P8.98 billion.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government rejected all bids to send a signal that it wasn't in dire need of cash.

Doris C. Dumlao

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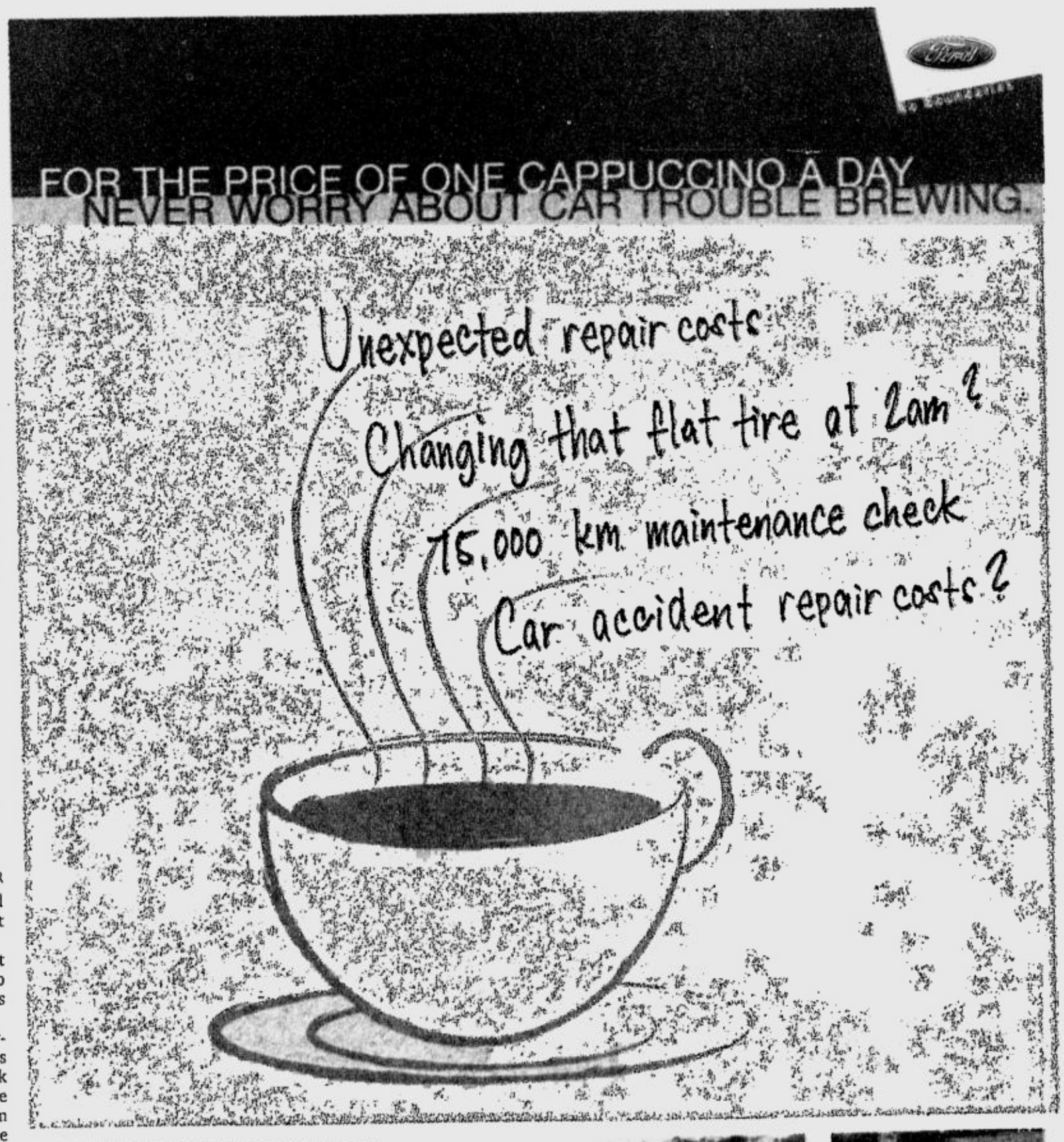

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PPA approves 15% hike in cargo handling fees

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUthority has approved the petition of cargo handlers to raise fees by 15 percent to offset increasing costs related to fuel, power and wages, its top official said.

Oscar Sevilla, PPA general manager, said that although the agency's board of directors had approved the fee hike application of cargo handlers, the provisional authority still had not been issued due to inconsistencies in the inflation forecasts of the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry.

"The provisional authority is on hold until we had reconciled the inflation data," Sevilla said.

The Philippine Chamber of Arrastre and Stevedoring Services sought the increase in fees.

Cargo handling consists of stevedoring, which is cargo handling inside the vessel; arrastre, or cargo handling work on dock; and the off-dock cost of shipping lines or container operators that use container yards far from the port.

Major port players, like International Container Terminal Services Inc., Asian Terminals Inc. and Harbour Centre, all have cargo-handling services.

"The PPA believes the increase was justified because of the increased spending for fuel, electricity and wages," said Sevilla.

Cargo handling is usually charged per revenue ton or per cubic meter. The fees could range from several pesos to a few hundreds.

Sevilla said the increase would not affect the agency's plan to impose a discounted rate on cargoes, especially farm goods, coming from Mindanao. The PPA wants to reduce by 30 percent the cargo fees slapped on goods from Mindanao so these would not rot.

The PPA earlier said it is planning to overhaul its tariff structure by correcting a huge disparity between cargo handling and docking rates imposed on foreign and domestic vessels.

Local vessels pay less than 20 percent of what foreign vessels do when docking and unloading cargo on Philippine ports, according to the PPA.

But whether a tariff restructuring would benefit the agency in terms of collection is another thing.

Using a new method and correcting loopholes in the tariff could reduce the PPA's revenue at a time when cargo being brought in and vessels docking on Philippine ports are on the decline.

There were less cargo vessels that docked on the PPA ports this year.

Still, the PPA registered a net income of P1.37 billion in the first half, up 1.7 percent compared to the previous year. The port operator raised its full year profit target to P1.9 billion against an earlier forecast of P1.4 billion.

Terminal kiss

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AT THE OUTSET, LET ME stress that newspaper owner Emilio Yap did not buy into this infamous company called Piatco, because the guy has a lot of money.

That he may want to squander several billions of pesos in Piatco, surely, is a distinct possibility. But personally, I doubt it, unless the guy is a basement terminal case.

As everybody knows, except perhaps Don Emilio himself, that darling of the public called Piatco is already caught in a messy problematic project.

Years ago, Piatco wrangled a contract from the government to build, operate and then eventually transfer a terminal at the Manila international airport called the Naia 3.

The Naia project is still hanging, despite Piatco's claim it already spent $600 million. Piatco says it needs at least $100 million more to complete the project.

Decorating the Naia 3 project under Piatco, you see, are probably a million and one court cases both here and abroad.

In the mind of this cute administration, Piatco may as well kiss the terminal project goodbye.

And so that is the kind of company that Don Emilio, as he likes to be called by his lackeys in media, supposedly bought into.

Maybe he has money to throw away, yes?

* * *

RECENTLY, news erupted that the Manila Hotel Corp. bought the interest of the German airport operator Fraport in the Filipino trying-to-be airport operator Piatco.

Fraport owns about 30 percent of Piatco—on record. Off the record, the German state-owned company actually put up almost all of the money for the project.

Allegedly, the expenses included some handsome pay-off money for some top government officials of this republic since the project's inception.

On the other hand, behind Manila Hotel is none other than the politically influential Don Emilio, the main stockholder of the newspaper Manila Bulletin.

That's the same Don Emilio who owns a few other businesses that do not exactly rake in money by the truckload, such as the closed idle Prince Hotel.

Really, I doubt if he can afford to waste money in the Piatco venture, even assuming that he has money coming out of his ears.

* * *

STILL, immediately after the news broke out, some lawyers proclaimed the supposed entry of Don Emilio into Piatco as the salvation of the country.

Also quoted in the news reports were some high profile, self-proclaimed "leaders" in the business community, singing hosanna to the Don.

The news reports called the Don Emilio coup as the one in a million chance we all have been waiting for all along to finally make the hanging Naia 3 operational.

Yeah, sure, and I am the new Pope!

* * *

FIRST of all, one of the owners of the Manila Hotel remains the state-managed pension fund Government Service Insurance System.

The last time I checked, the GSIS still owned some 15 percent of Manila Hotel, not to mention the fund's huge collectible from the group of Don Emilio.

Please remember, ladies and gentlemen, that the group of Don Emilio was able to buy Manila Hotel from GSIS, after the same group lost in the public bidding.

All they did was, with possibly the help of some political influence, the Supreme Court invented something about national patrimony to reverse the bidding.

Anyway, word from GSIS insiders has it that, up to now, years after the Don Emilio acquisition of the hotel, his group still owes GSIS some P1 billion.

Now, if you are the GSIS, you will certainly try everything to collect on the debt, since it is, in effect, the funds of GSIS members.

Do you think that the GSIS will look the other way when it comes to the group of Don Emilio?

* * *

ALL right, so the Manila Hotel, in buying the 30 percent holdings of the German firm Fraport in the Filipino firm Piatco, actually only aims to open the airport terminal.

But everybody wants that! Hello!

It is not the multibillion-peso question in the reported transaction between the company of Don Emilio and the German invaders, este, investors.

Even this cute administration is trying hard to open the Naia 3, even to the point of begging its Japanese contractor Takenaka for the technical blueprint, which the government needs to finish the darn thing.

Unfortunately, despite its claim of having already spent more than $600 million for the project, which was originally estimated at $300 million (although Malaysia built a much bigger airport terminal for only $240 million), Piatco forgot to pay Takenaka for its work so far.

Takenaka therefore refuses to surrender the designs to this cute administration before the Japanese contractor gets its payment.

Of course everybody wants the terminal to open already, forgodsakes, but the multibillion-peso question remains: Is the Manila Hotel the right outfit to do it?

Well, if you have not been to the historic Manila Hotel lately, don't even think about it. It is not the hotel that it used to be. It's like being in Quiapo or something.

* * *

IN the end, whatever comes out of this mess of a nullified contract between Piatco and the government, we, the public, and not they, the investors, must pay for the cost of building terminal, plus the profit of the invaders, este, investors.

Again, here is the deal: Everybody agrees that we have to open the airport, but is the group of Don Emilio the right entity to do it?

That is why, ladies and gentlemen, they have this thing called "bidding," in which we hope we can at least get a fighting chance that the best guys would win.

For where is the Manila Hotel now in the rank of classy hotels in this country? Why is Prince Hotel not operating? How come other hotels in the area are doing well?

Is the shipping company of the same group among the top proud-to-be-Filipino shipping lines here? Where is the same group's bank in the ranking of local banks?

The really visible business of the group, of course, is the news daily Manila Bulletin. And we all know what its standing is in the media business. And that is, from leading newspaper to leading official mouthpiece of those in power.

Let me see if I got this right: You mean, boss, we are willing to gamble public money, the same funds of millions of GSIS members, on a controversial problematic venture, using as front such a group with such a dull business track record, is that it?

* * *

LET'S assume however that the group has the cash to buy the 30 percent interest of Fraport in Piatco.

Me, frankly, I have not yet seen any proof of the transaction.

But let's say that the group has the money, and it buys out Fraport for a measly sum of $200 million, which is more than P11 billion.

I doubt that the Don Emilio group would be willing to throw away that kind of money. How does he make money out of the deal?

You can bet on it, bubwit, the only way for anybody to make money out of the allegedly overpriced terminal is to make us, the public, pay for it all the way.

* * *

AND the saddest part of it is that, technically, Piatco does not even have the right to operate the terminal.

In effect, the group of Don Emilio is buying into something that, according to the Supreme Court ruling, was done through a contract that was null and void from the very beginning.

And here comes the knight in shining armor, this group led by Don Emilio, willing to get tangled into controversy. Why?

I mean, nobody normally wants to touch such a messy project—not even with a 10-foot pole—simply because no sane businessman wants to buy into trouble.

Now, by willing to buy out Fraport, is the group of Don Emilio simply telling us that, well, one of them can handle the Supreme Court and this cute administration.

Another name for that is, really, pure and simple influence peddling. And we all know where Don Emilio can get the influence. He controls a powerful outfit called a newspaper, doesn't he?

Pyramid scams thrive in pre-need industry

From page B1

through legislation.

CAP claimed that what added salt to the wound was the imposition of the Pre-Need Uniform Chart of Accounts (PNUCA) in 2002 as a standard for accounting and reporting of finances and liabilities for pre-need companies.

With the PNUCA in place, pre-need educational and pension plans were no longer treated as investment contracts but as insurance contracts, subject to the Actuarial Reserve Liability (ARL) scheme.

The ARL required pre-need firms to have reserves as of a present cut-off date to match future liabilities in all existing and lapsed plans.

CAP argued that plans do not mature simultaneously in the immediate future. It added that change of rules—without proper notice and consultation, it claimed—in the middle of the game made it nearly impossible for a pre-need firm to meet SEC's requirements.

Worse, CAP's dealer's license and permit to sell were suspended last year due to what it claimed was a "theoretical" trust fund deficiency that was due to the application of the PNUCA.

"It is the insurance companies that largely benefited from the strict impositions of the SEC on pre-need companies like CAP," the company said in its court filing. "Why would a genuine Filipino invention like educational pre-need be allowed to suffer or be extinguished when it has helped fulfill thousands of parents' dreams to send their children to college?"

CAP argued that the SEC should have applied the International Accounting Standards 39, which classifies pre-need education and pension products as investments. PNUCA, it claimed, was patterned after accounting rules for insurance companies.

Much ado over ARL

Much ado has been made over the Actuarial Reserve Liability, a fundamental calculation that takes a snapshot of a pre-need company's liabilities to plan holders at a given point in time.

Some pre-need firms have blamed the ARL for reflecting a supposed weakness in their ability to pay plan holders. CAP, for one, has strongly assailed the calculation, saying it is not a reliable estimate.

The ARL is the present value of projected future liabilities of a pre-need company as determined by an expert called an actuary. The estimate is based on a "discount rate" that must not exceed 80 percent of the interest rate for the longest maturing Philippine government security traded over the previous three months.

The main indicator of a pre-need company's financial health is a comparison of its trust fund versus its ARL. If the ARL is greater than the trust fund assets of a pre-need firm, it means the company does not have enough assets today to answer for the future value of its plan holder liabilities. In theory, the firm is headed toward bankruptcy.

Roberto Manabat, the Securities and Exchange Commission's general accountant, explains that pre-need companies, in their contract with plan holders, promise to pay benefits in the future.

Under present accounting practices, pre-need companies record income as they collect premiums. For proper matching, the build up of the ARL should be expensed. If no ARL is recognized, the income that may ultimately be issued as dividends to stockholders will be overstated," Manabat said.

While some pre-need firms point out that the ARL is an unreliable estimate, Manabat stressed that a lot of figures in any company's financial statements are estimates and still provide the best insight to its health.

(To be concluded)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 19, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30	169,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	51.5	51	51.5	1,365,800
China Banking Corp.	850	850	840	845	2,450
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	280,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49	48.5	49	149,200
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	3,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	308,100
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	14,100
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30	31	23,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29	29	133,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2855	2860	2850	2860	70
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	90,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2090	2090	2090	2090	680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	16,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.96	0.98	1,120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	780	770	780	23,840
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	154,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	3,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	483,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1535	1565	1535	1565	57,920
Ivantage Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	230,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	7,700
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.25	20	20	875,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	912,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	1,814,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	98,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.8	1.74	1.8	88,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.8	9.1	8.8	8.9	736,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	2.95	2.95	1,348,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	70,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	3,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	30,900
Pancake House Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	279,000
San Miguel Corp. B	95.5	95.5	94.5	95	577,100
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	17	20,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	300	305	300	305	95,390
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	360,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	5	30,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	575,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.245	1,100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	106,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	3,215,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	2,410,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	970,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	634,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	320,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	234,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	42	43	309,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.07	500,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	24	24	24	24	300
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	6,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.8	42,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.36	7,024,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	3,200,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	210	210	209	209	369,620
South China Resources Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	2,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.175	0.175	0.16	0.16	370,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	610,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.085	0.0875	4,900,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	1,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.99	0.96	0.97	4,990,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6	6	6	6	5,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,579,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	3,237,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	7,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	7.9	7.7	7.8	27,516,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	3,191,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	700,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.95	5.2	4.95	5.1	1,164,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	990,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	19,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.2	7.1	7.2	3,617,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.99	0.99	0.93	0.94	990,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	75,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	956,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.26	65,450,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	16,660,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	30,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.86	0.84	0.85	1,540,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	1,998,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	297,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	290,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	15,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	100,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	83,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	850,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.75	4.1	3.75	4	459,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	18,680,000

CURRENCIES

September 19, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817394	1.000000	56.1290
Japan	Yen	0.007341	0.008981	0.5041
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477930	1.808100	101.4868
Hongkong	Dollar	0.105326	0.128856	7.2326
Switzerland	Franc	0.643719	0.787526	44.2030
Canada	Dollar	0.692883	0.847673	47.5790
Singapore	Dollar	0.486139	0.594742	33.3823
Australia	Dollar	0.626836	0.766871	43.0437
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.168270	2.652661	148.8912
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217966	0.266660	14.9674
Brunei	Dollar	0.484698	0.592979	33.2833
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000099	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.019926	0.024378	1.3683
UAE	Dirham	0.222559	0.272279	15.2827
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.223400	68.6682
Argentina	Peso	0.280651	0.343348	19.2718
Brazil	REAL	0.356660	0.436338	24.4912
Denmark	Kroner	0.134111	0.164072	9.2092
India	Rupee	0.018658	0.022826	1.2812
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216873	0.265322	14.8923
Mexico	New Peso	0.075423	0.092272	5.1791
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575103	0.703581	39.4913
Norway	Kroner	0.128384	0.157065	8.8159
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013662	0.016714	0.9381
South Africa	Rand	0.128646	0.157386	8.8339
Korea	Won	0.000794	0.000971	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.107014	0.130921	7.3485
Syria	Pound	0.015746	0.019264	1.0813
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024859	0.030413	1.7071
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000381	0.000466	0.0262

Buyers revive interest in smaller vehicles as fuel costs rise

By Ronnel W. Domingo

GROWING COMPETITION in the market for smaller-engined cars is driving up buyers' bargaining power and broadening their options, according to an industry official.

Arnel D. Doria, deputy head of Honda Cars Philippines, Inc.'s (HCPI) marketing division, said small cars made up 47 percent of all passenger cars sold last year, up from only 26 percent in 2001.

In the first eight months of 2005, cars with 1.3- and 1.5-liter engines cornered 51 percent of the passenger car segment.

HCPI yesterday launched the 2006 Honda City that comes in 1.3-liter and 1.5-liter variants. The firm is promoting the vehicle to household heads, homemakers, children of upper middle class families, and other first-time car owners.

Meanwhile, the market share of vehicles with 1.6- or 2-liter engines shrank steadily to 41 percent last year, from 65 percent in 2001.

"The market share of small sedans has been increasing steadily over the last five years," Doria said. "As more choices in this class are introduced, it is natural for sales to go up."

He said the trend could not be attributed exclusively to the recent rise in world fuel prices, although buyers have become more conscious about a vehicle's fuel efficiency.

"Now, potential buyers ask about how many kilometers a vehicle can run on a liter (of fuel)," Doria said. "This was not an issue in previous years."

Still, he said the market was not "in a panic mode" over fuel prices. "The situation has not reached the crisis level of the 1970s."

Doria added that rising sales for small cars was not affecting the market for vehicles with bigger engines.

The market share of sedans with engine displacements larger than 2 liters grew to 12 percent last year from 8 percent in 2001.

"A significant part of the market are people who own more than one vehicle," he explained. "These people tend to keep at least one vehicle (with a large engine) for utility and another (with a small engine) for less fuel consumption."

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• Strategy and Organizational Development
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• Building the Entrepreneurial Organization
• Understanding Entrepreneurial Partnerships
• Installing Systems that Drive Entrepreneurial Performance
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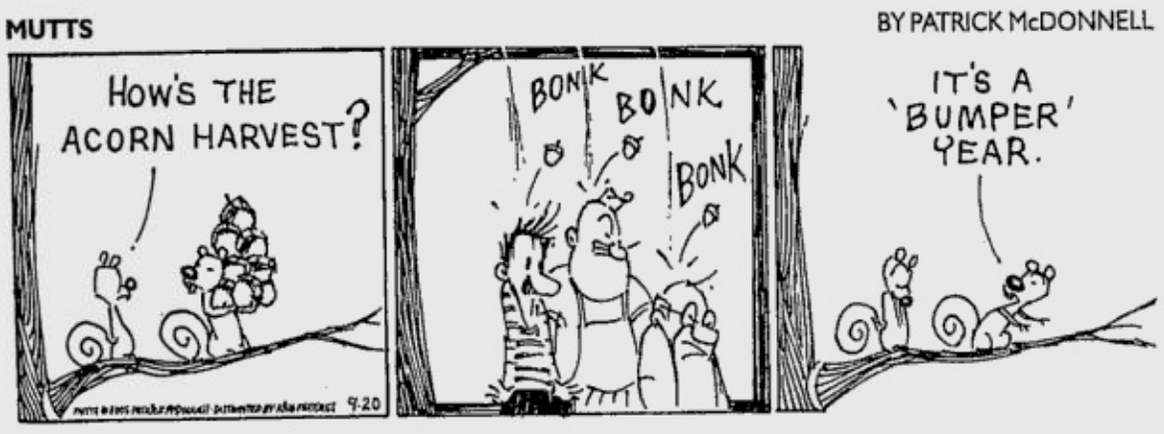
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

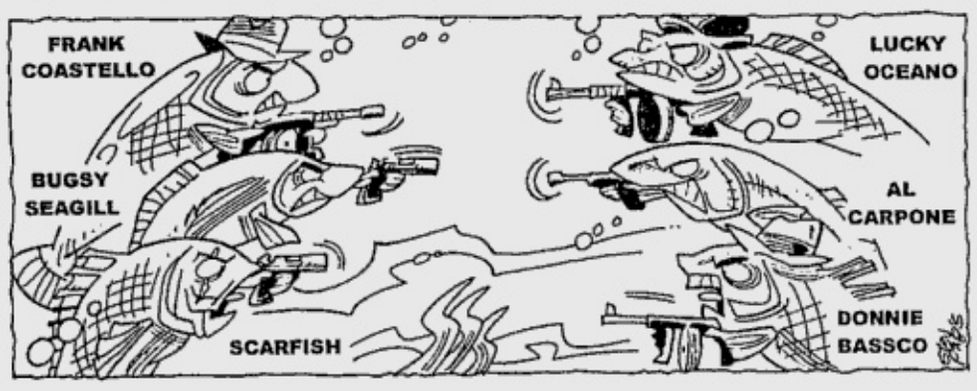
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



THE FIRST PLAGUE: THE NILE RIVER WILL TURN TO BLOOD

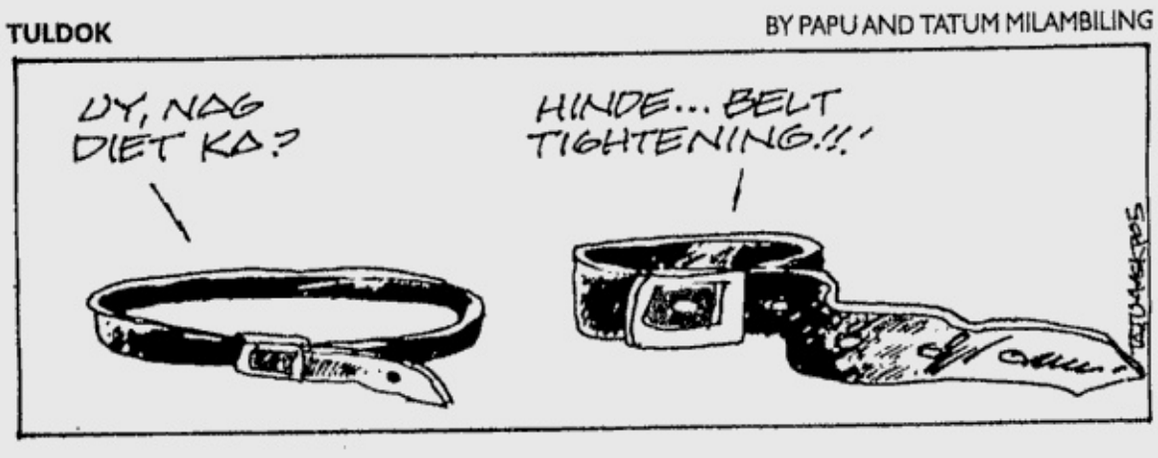
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an excellent mind. (Many of you do not appreciate your fine intellectual abilities.) You're peace-loving and friendly. You want to promote good will wherever you go. This year you will finish a nine-year cycle. Therefore, be prepared to let go of people and things in order to begin something new.
Birthdate of: Gary Cole, actor; Sophia Loren, actress; Anne Meara, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today Mercury moves directly opposite your sign. It's going to stay there for the next four weeks. This is an excellent time to explain issues to others and clarify things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your interest in both your work and your health will be a strong focus in the next month. You'll find it easy to be attentive to details on the job. (You're hot!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're starting to feel even more playful than usual! Say yes to fun invitations. Amusing games and reading and writing are excellent activities for the next few weeks.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today Mercury moves into the area of your chart that relates to domestic affairs and family relationships. Significant conversations with parents might take place in the next few weeks. (Hmm.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Short trips, errands and busy details keep you on the go now. Expect to spend more time with siblings and relatives today and in the near future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're more concerned with business and commercial affairs. You want to clarify and establish some things with others. The next four to five weeks are an excellent time to do this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today, Mercury moves into your sign. It will stay there for the next three weeks. This lets you put a lot of yourself into whatever you have to say. (You're extremely convincing now!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your ability to research and dig for secrets is tops now and for the next few weeks. This is a good time for studying and taking care of details.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be surprised if you find yourself thinking about your goals and expectations in life during the next few weeks. In addition, what's your relationship to certain groups?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent time to undertake any kind of study that will improve your career or your job skills. Write down your good ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel plans and dealing with foreign cultures and different countries excite you now. You're thrilled to learn anything new that stimulates your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is an excellent time to take care of red-tape details related to bills, debt, insurance matters, taxes and shared property. You can clean up a lot of loose ends.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ancient Welsh priest
6 Haughty
11 Rel. figures
14 Summer or Shalala
15 At large
16 Encountered
17 Young pop fan
19 __ you kidding me?
20 Systems of rules
21 Model-airplane wood
23 Albania, Bulgaria, etc.
27 Like the nobility
28 Room full of birds
29 Small river
31 Dull surface
32 Performs an electrician's job
33 AOL, e.g.
36 Morsel of food
37 Merchant's figures
38 Andes people
39 Unwell
40 Willickers!
41 Styles
42 Meet parts
44 Inventors' protection
45 Responding to applause
47 Processions
48 Sans company
49 Noteworthy acts
51 Kipling book
52 Mini pants
58 12/24 or 12/31
59 Likeness
60 Fully conscious
61 Cozy room
62 Singular performances
63 Allow to board

DOWN
1 Banned insecticide's letters
2 Fish eggs
3 French one
4 Place for the night
5 Preschool school
6 Trudges
7 Weapon in Clue
8 Klutz's comment
9 Function
10 Stiff felt hats
11 Narrow in outlook
12 Short and to the point
13 Place
18 Hard-edged, in a way
22 One-time connection
23 Thumper's deer pal
24 Be of use to
25 Alcott classic
26 Smith or Jackson
27 Very in Vichy
29 Window bases
30 Lowish card
32 Disney or Whitman
34 Spectacle
35 Histories
37 Dance partner?
38 Small amount
40 Adam's book
41 Sheriff's cohort
43 French wine
44 Butter servings
45 Used an oven
46 Yellowish green
47 Noggins
49 Mare's baby
50 Cogito __ sum
53 Ins. choice
54 Be in debt
55 Snitch
56 Ring decision letters
57 D.C. legislator

By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
9/20/05

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	W	A	P		D	I	R	E		L	E	E	R	Y
T	I	L	E		U	N	I	X		I	S	S	U	E
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C	I	R		A	B	T			R	E	S	E	A	T
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E	L	S			H	A	M		N	U	D	G	E	D
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		D	I	A	M	O	N	D	C	H	O	K	E	R
A	M	O	N	G		G	O	G	O		L	A	R	K
R	O	U	G	E		R	E	E	L		E	R	L	E
T	O	T	E	R		E	L	S	E		S	T	E	R

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9/20/05

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor Aries Espinosa

CSB student is Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition champion

MICHELLE SANTIAGO ONG, 20, OF the College of St. Benilde was declared champion in the final showdown of the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition held last Aug. 6 at the World Food Expo (Wofex) at the World Trade Center.

Cool under pressure, Michelle's recipes, Chocolate Amandine (dessert) and Honeydew Lychee Coller (refreshment) won the nod of the seven judges for best exemplifying the versatility of Nestlé Ice Cream.

Criteria for judging in the grand finals were: 30 percent for the use of products, 20 percent blend, 20 percent flavor, 20 percent presentation, and 10 percent organizational ability.

The Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition is Michelle's first foray into a major culinary competition but this 4th year hotel and restaurant institute management student has had a lot of practice in school. At the College of St. Benilde, Michelle, a culinary arts major, has been joining contests since her freshman year and has won in at least six of them.

Michelle practiced preparing her recipes for the Scoopetition grand finals four days before Aug. 6. She kept testing her recipes, balancing the ingredients until she perfected her entries. On hand to serve as her informal jurors were her family. "I practiced on my mom and dad and two siblings," she says.

From a young age, Michelle has always loved cooking, especially preparing desserts, so there was never a question of what she would take up in college.

MICHELLE Santiago Ong of College of St. Benilde wins top spot in the recently concluded Nestlé Ice cream Scoopetition at the 2005 World's Food Expo (Wofex).

For the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition grand finals, Michelle prepared recipes that were light and fruity. "I decided on this combination because I believe dessert and refreshment should not be cloying (hindi nakakaumay) and should be a refreshing end to a meal," she says.

And to bring out the zest of the fruits in her recipes, Michelle used carbonated drinks. She also pointed out that the secret to the flavors in her recipes is in the texture. "I always strive for contrast, a combination of creamy and crispy, sweet and sour."

For Michelle's winning dessert recipe Chocolate Amandine, she used Nestlé Super Mocha Ice cream. The sweet and creamy goodness of mocha ice cream balanced the tart and citrusy flavors of the orange juice, orange zest, mandarin orange and the kiwi fruit that she used in the filling and garnish.

For her winning refreshment Honeydew Lychee Coller, Michelle's flavor balancer and enhancer was Nestlé Vanilla Ice Cream. The smooth and creamy taste of vanilla ice cream was the perfect counterpoint to the lychee and honeydew syrup combination.

Michelle's formula proved to be a winning combination. Her entries garnered a total of 91.35 percent.

As champion, Michelle brought home P15,000 and a trophy and her adviser Doreen Juban received P7.500. She joins the ranks of new talents that have emerged out of the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition.

Now on its third year, the Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition is a much-awaited event for students. The competition, gives HRM students a chance to practice the skills they have learned in school as they participate in a major culinary event. For the winners, it is a first step towards a career in the culinary profession.

The Nestlé Ice Cream Scoopetition is also avidly followed by consumers. Ice cream lovers watch the competitions from the first round to the finals in anticipation of the yummy new flavors that the contestants are able to compose out of Nestlé Ice Cream, thus highlighting the versatility of this much-loved treat.

TWO GREAT COMPANIES, ONE GREAT PARTNERSHIP

The Blackberry unit gets a thumbs-up from Ronald McDonald as GlobeSolutions and Golden Arches forged a powerful partnership towards better business efficiency. Shown are (standing from left), from GlobeSolutions: Gina Ocampo-Leonor, senior product manager for GlobeSolutions-VAS; Maridol Ylanan, head of GlobeSolutions-sales; Dan David, head of corporate wireless business group and Gil Genio, head of enterprise business group; and from Golden Arches: Kenneth Yang, managing director; Romeo Bochoco, senior vice president and chief finance officer; Chona Torre, vice president for human resources and Joan Manalo, head of benefits and administration.

3 ROTARY CLUBS HOLD JOINT INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Three rotary clubs in District 3830 which names bear historical significance had joined forces last Aug. 17, at the Stargazer Room of the Grand Boulevard Hotel in Manila to celebrate their respective club's induction and turn-over ceremonies. These clubs were Rotary Club of Makati Bonifacio headed by president Mon Veluz; Rotary Club of Makati Edsa headed by president Malou Maligaya and Rotary Club of Kalayaan headed by president Mon Casas. The ceremonies was well-attended not only by the members of the three clubs but also the officers of the District 3830 headed by district governor Jimmy Cura who came together with his spouse Luz.

BANTAY BATA 163 FLIES HIGH WITH CEBU PACIFIC

Cebu Pacific and Bantay Bata 163 recently finalized their one-year partnership to be a corporate partner by providing round-trip airfare tickets for the latter's official provincial trips in Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Puerto Pricesa. Recently BB163 went to Hongkong for the first time, in partnership with the International Social Service or ISS of Hongkong and the Philippines, to make its services available to Filipino migrant workers. Present during the signing of the agreement were (from left): Antonio Tambunting Jr., BB163 advisory board member; Candice Iyog, Cebu Pacific marketing director; Elvira Yulo, BB163 resource mobilization manager; and Marianita D. Torres, BB163 senior external affairs officer.

DONITA ENDORSES DIMETAPP

Donita Rose recently entered a partnership with Wyeth Consumer Healthcare to be the endorser for the effective cold medicine for kids – Dimetapp. Shown are (standing from left) Pedi Dela Cruz (creative director, Gallardo & Associates), Teri Pagal (account manager, Gallardo & Associates), Marjorie So (account supervisor, Gallardo & Associates), Rachelle Gamboa (senior product manager, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare), Edwin Kuizon (marketing director, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare); (seated from left) Melissa Garcia (Dimetapp product manager, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare), Gary Mendoza (country manager, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare), Donita Rose and Irene Mamangon (artist development division manager, Manila Genesis Entertainment Inc).

BITS & Clips

South Border at Suburbia

SOUTH BORDER, ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-after bands in the country today returns back to Suburbia Bar for a one-night special on Wednesday, Sept. 21. Manila night owls are again in for a big surprise as they experience a one-of-a-kind music style with South Border. Get entertained and excited with their carefully crafted original compositions and unique renditions of R&B hits. For inquiries on the South Border show at Suburbia Bar contact 811-0725 or 450-1685 or e-mail at suburbia@xaxmusic.com.

St. Luke's holds symposium on orthopedics

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER'S INSTITUTE OF ORTHOPEDICS AND Sports Medicine will be holding an International Symposium in orthopedic surgery from Sept. 22 to 24, at the Sunset Pavilion of the Westin Philippine Plaza. The symposium will feature renowned international experts in Spine, Trauma, Sports Medicine and Total Joint Replacement. For more information, call the symposium secretariat, St. Luke's Medical Center, at 727-5456; 723-0101 loc. 5456 and 4219; or e-mail: corprelations @stluke.com.ph.

Novartis leadership camp search

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR TWO LUCKY DELEGATES TO THE NOVARTIS INTERnational Biotechnology Leadership Camp. This is a 3-day seminar to be held from Sept. 23 to 25, in Taipei, Taiwan. All fees, airfare and hotel accommodations will be paid by Novartis. This leadership program aims to offer a broader view with specific focus on global and Asia Pacific biotechnology development. The search is open to all Medicine Major: Post Senior, School of Management: MBA candidates, Biotechnology or Pharmaceutical related courses: master students, doctoral or post-doctoral candidates. For more details call 458-8976, 889-6794.

Entrepreneurship readiness workshop

A COMPREHENSIVE 3-DAY WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP READIness and Writing a Business Plan will be held on Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and 8, (Saturdays) starting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kamayan Restaurant along Pasay Road, Makati City, in front of Walter Mart. Seminar organizer is FTMO (For Team Members only). Deadline for registration is Sept. 20. Workshop investment is P3,500 per person, inclusive of lunch, afternoon snacks and handouts. A P15 refund will be given upon presentation of a valid parking ticket. For more information text (0917) 808-0953 or e-mail kcv_coach@yahoo.com.

Powerbooks, Listerine PocketPaks promo

AS READING AND GOOD CONVERSATIONS GO HAND IN HAND, POWERBOOKS and Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks recently forged a strategic alliance to ensure that no conversation will ever be dull as well as embarrassing. For every P500 purchase at Powerbooks, you get one vial of Coolmint Listerine PocketPaks. Promo is valid while supplies last. Now, it's just a matter of keeping those conversations coming.

Drink Yakult for better health

DRINKING YAKULT EVERYDAY ENHANCES THE IMMUNE SYSTEM BY PREventing the overgrowth of yeast and fungus and produce substances that can prevent infections. The microorganisms found in Yakult also help improve bowel movement, prevent growth of harmful bacteria in the intestines, aid digestion and help eliminate harmful substance. Start drinking Yakult today and get a nutritious boost toward better health and a better quality of life. Yakult is available in all supermarkets and groceries nationwide and through roving Yakult ladies.

NSG SUPPORTS PINOY MT EVEREST EXPEDITION

From delightful sports-inspired dishes to Everest-scaling action, adventure athletes and sports fanatics alike can surely call the National Sports Grill their home. Recently, head coach Ponch Zamora (second from right) expressed NSG's support for the all-Pinoy expedition team in their quest to reach the highest peak in the world by agreeing to host the team's activities such as press conferences. With Zamora at the contract signing are FPMEE's leaders Regie Pablo, Art Valdez and Fred Jamili.

DRYPERS HOLDS PRESKO PANALO RAFFLE PROMO

Drypers recently held the 1st monthly draw of its Presko Panalo raffle promo. 3 winners each from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were drawn and awarded P20,000 in cash plus 3 months' supply of Drypers products. Join now and you still have a chance to win in the grand draw, on Oct. 9, when a brand new Toyota Innova will be raffled off to a lucky winner. All you have to do is to write your name, address, contact number, name of store where product was purchased and signature on a piece of paper and enclose in a white legal envelope together with a Drypers pack proof of purchase, then drop in drop boxes. Acceptable Drypers proofs of purchase are: 3 Drypers Singles packs or 1 Drypers pack of 4's and up for every entry.

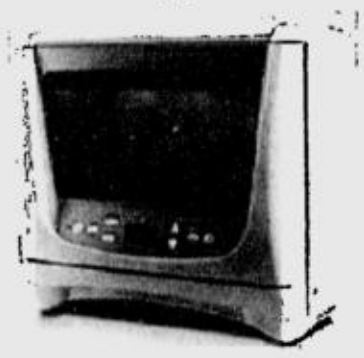
NEW TELETECH CONTACT AND BPO CENTER

TeleTech recently opened it's 3rd contact and BPO center at Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quezon City. Shown cutting the ribbon during the inauguration are (from left) Alejandro Marallt, TeleTech Novaliches site director; Manny Zabalza, Deputy Administrator of the Quezon City government; Lilia B. De Lima, director-general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority; and, Craig Reines, TeleTech vice president and general manager.

ProductFILES

MAX 18: Your perfect cooking partner

FROM A LONG LINE OF TRUSTED kitchen appliances, Whirlpool is proud to introduce the latest breakthrough in microwave ovens. Combining quality performance, elegance in style, and space saving features - MAX 18 is the most efficient kitchen partner you could ever own. Aside from bagging the prestigious French "Janus" award for most innovative Microwave Oven design worldwide, the MAX18 also boasts of a patented Whirlpool 3D Microwave technology which provides even heat distribution and ultimate performance. It even has a unique Jet Defrost function that allows defrosting at full power which is up to 6 times faster than traditional low-wattage defrosting. The Max 18 also possesses exceptional space-saving dimensions which allows it to fit easily into small or corner spaces yet still retain the same spacious interior as other regular microwave ovens. The petite but powerful Max 18 is definitely the smallest and smartest microwave oven you can own, your perfect partner in cooking.



Party Avenue: The best events venue in QC

PARTY AVENUE IS THE ULTIMATE events and entertainment venue located at the heart of Quezon City with business address at 66 Scout Tuazon (near Timog Avenue), South Triangle, Diliman Quezon City. It is suitable for meetings, company or entertainment incentives, mini-conferences and general events like weddings, birthdays, launchings, dance balls and other entertaining gatherings. Party Avenue has four outlets: The Bar and Restaurant, The Multi-Purpose Hall, The VIP Lounge, and The Outdoor Roof Top. All four outlets are equipped with PA Sound Systems and could be merged as one venue for bigger events. Please call for free event management consultation including complete entertainment and refreshment packages that are flexible to your needs at 371-4409 or 0920-8698745.

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(PDI – Sept 20, 2005)

B6

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Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Candy 24hrs 09212085309

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A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

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(5 units available)
PRICE: P5 Million
Location: Multinational Village, P'que.
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COMM'L/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★
LA315 to 3648 CommlMainRd
P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

So.Greenhgts Alabang d/p 280T mo.10T bnew: 0917-851-1193

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READY FOR OCCUPANCY
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Only P5,000 to reserve
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MANILA

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BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.965M&up8903461

MARIKINA

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Bnew4br3tb CG 9425411 / 12

PROVIDENT VILL nr ATENEO 413m² w/ 3hses nr gate P5M LOT ONLY 301m² gate Rush 2.2M 9488240; 09178529400

MARIKINA / ANTIPOLO
Along Sumulong Hi-way
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•Nr Morato #11 K-2nd
Kamuning 5BR4TB Bnew 9210255/9967 09178885431

OTHER AREAS

BRANDNEW H&L 1M-25M (Mon-Sat) 842-1914/842-9570

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PARANAQUE

HOUSE & LOT

BULACAN

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CAVITE

MOLINO P4t/mo 529-6117

Near Tgyty 605K 5208410

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2-3.6M BNew Condo
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RFO 10%DP Move-in or NO DP
• Remy 0910-6623771

1.3M C-5 RFO CONDO
50-sqm 10%DP Mve-in
w/Flexible Terms or NO DP
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Sale/ Rent 09176266516

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1.1M 2BR Nr. C-5 / Market'
EZ TERMS • 0915-2728898

MANILA

UNIV BELT 1.6M 645-3731

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

MANDA NEAR SHAW
BnewThse/3stry/3br/ 3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.645M&up8903461

QUEZON CITY

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LOT

KALOOCAN

Whispering Palm 103m² 983-7942

MARIKINA

1578m² Nr Katipunan 6341212

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m² P8,500/m² 0918-9235216★

RIZAL

Boundery Antipolo / Taytay Cor Lot 2100m² 09178559901

BUILDING

LAND & BUILDING FOR SALE
Add: 453 Carlos Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila. Land Area: 4,451sqm / Bldg Floor Area: 6,210sqm Call: (02) 702-4115

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park II 634-1212

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee - Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for the supply of services thru outsourcing of the following positions:

	Item	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1.	Seventeen & (17) General Clerks (4) General Clerks (3) General Clerks (10) General Clerks	P10,000.00/month
2.	Two (2) Data Encoders	10,000.00/month
3.	Six (6) Data Analysts (preferably CPA)	19,092.50/month
4.	One (1) Civil Engineer for BSP-Ozamiz Branch	28,000.00/month
5.	One (1) Utility Worker for BSP-Angeles Branch	10,395.60/month
6.	Three (3) Laboratory Technicians for BSP-SPC	24,137.81/month

Contract periods shall be per BSP Terms of Reference

Bid documents are available from 12 September 2005 to 22 September 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.05% of the ABC for each item at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building
cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No(s). 523-1321

Pre-Bid Conference on 23 September 2005 - 2:00 p.m.
Bidding Date and Time: 04 October 2005 - 2:00 p.m.
Place: Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:
1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Y2004 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement & Balance Sheet)
3. a. Y2004 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its authorized agent bank
   b. Tax Clearance Certificate
4. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
5. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid; or a certification from the bank stating that the bidder has a cash deposit with a holding period of at least one (1) month from the date of bidding. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current assets - Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10
6. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
7. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
8. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
9. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree
10. Valid and current certification issued by the Social Security System (SSS) that the firm has no pending case for non-payment of SSS contributions
11. Sworn certification from the bidder of its compliance with existing labor laws and standards
12. List of clients with similar manpower services complete with the names of the contact person(s), addresses and telephone/fax numbers

Envelope No. 2:
1. Instruction to Bidders
2. Certification of Compliance with the Terms and Conditions of the bidding
3. Original Bid Security
4. Authority of signatory to represent the company/bidder

Envelope No. 3:
Price Proposal with attached cost breakdown

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested suppliers, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to SUBMIT bids for the following:

Name of the Project	:	Revenue Generation System
Location	:	Maasin City
Brief Description	:	Supply of system application software and hardware, database construction and training and technical support
Approved Budget of the Contract	:	Ten Million pesos, Philippine currency (Php 10,000,000.00)
Bid Documents Fee	:	0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract (Non-refundable)

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, evaluation of bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities are as follows:

Issuance of bid documents	September 28-30, 2005
Pre-bid conference	September 27, 2005
Opening of bids	October 10, 2005
Bid Evaluation	October 11-14, 2005
Post-evaluation	October 17-21, 2005
Notice of Award	October 24, 2005

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as reflected under "Bid Documents Fee" above to the City Treasury Services.

For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8608 or 5708824.

The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the City of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 13 & 20, 2005)

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

QUEZON CITY

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA50 m² (res) 75&110m² (Ideal for SPA, GYM, CALL CENTER) 9289541 / 7361925

HOUSE

PASIG

4BR/TB 2Car 45TH 634-1212

CAVITE

MOLINO, Semi Furnshd P6500/ MO 2BR,T&B,GRGE 0920-6337953

CONDO/TWNHSE

KALOOCAN

STUDIO CONDO UNIT SMILE SUB. CALOOCAN CALL ESTER 7364577 OR 09187253518

APARTMENT

MANILA

652 M Cristina Samp 09174529165

ROOM & BOARD

El Grande Inn 8257524
BF Pque P200! Tel8275345

PHILAMQC BIG RmTB 9265582

Windsor Inn Maceda St nr 7-11 Dimasalang, Manila 7118679, 7836781(24hrs)

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Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

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COM'L OFC BLDG 3FLRS COML APT W /BODEGA 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3612663

CUBAO fabshp 500m² 7257342

PTAMO nr BUENDIA
38-185m² 8903461 ofc hrs

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BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

2% w/o taking car 7880163-84

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

2% w/out taking car 5316577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Electric Casio Keyboard Portable P3,800 634-0695

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
(Republic of the Philippines)
TANGGAPAN NG PANGULO
(Office of the President)
TANGGAPAN NG SWEEPSTAKES PANGKAWANGGAWA NG PILIPINAS
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C., Philippines P.O. Box 141

LIST OF ANTICIPATED VACANCY AT CHARITY CLINIC DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer IV

Salary Grade : 20
Qualification Standards
- Doctor of Medicine
- 1 year relevant experience
- 4 hours relevant experience
- RA 1080

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

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MISCELLANEOUS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Value Pawnshop
Ist Flr, Metropolis Mall Alabang Muntinlupa City Public Auction on All Unredeemed Pawns as of Aug. 31, 2005. Date of Auction Sept. 26, 2005 2:00 PM at above address D.R. Salvador-Auctioneer
PDI–Sept. 19, 2005

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Filipino Fund Inc. Stock Cert. No. 13858-10,000 shares purchased on August 31, 1995 under Robert O. Campos were declared lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept 6 13 & 20, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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373-8821 / 0917-8830002

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

CLEHENIA CRISOLOGO SAN JUAN

1912 - 2005

Peacefully passed away on 3:00 o'clock in the morning of September 19, 2005.

She is survived by her children **Fe & Boni, Reynaldo, Rolando & Marilyn, Roberto & Luz, Ricardo & Rona, Dela & Ron,** and her grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Third floor, Premier 2, of Loyola Memorial Park, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation on Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

" The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want..."

ANTONIO MARTIN PASIGAN

June 25, 1935 – September 14, 2005

Dearly beloved husband of **Dr. Grace Rualo-Pasigan** and loving father of **Grace Antoinette, Michael, Tony II** and his wife **Dania**, grandfather of **Sofia Bella**, brother of **Auring (+), Annie, Boy, Curing** and **Bong**, in-laws, nephews and nieces peacefully returned to his Creator after receiving the last sacraments.

His body lies in state at the Premier I Chapel of the Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium in Guadalupe, Makati.

Cremation will follow after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the same venue on Wednesday, September 21, 2005.

We request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

IN LOVING MEMORY

One year ago, Sept. 20, 2004,
a loving devoted husband, son, father and grandfather

ROY D. PAPA

Left this world to join our Creator
In His Heavenly Kingdom

His wife: **Rosie**, mother: **Nene**, and children: **Roselle & Yuri, Roby, Ryan & Anne, Ron**, brothers and sisters and in-laws request relatives and friends to remember him in prayers on this day. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

Holy Masses will be offered today, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2005.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Malabon City	6:00 am
Mary the Queen, Madison St., Greenhills	6:00 am
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	6:15 am
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park,Makati City	6:15 am
	7:30 am
	12:00 nn
	6:00 am
Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Q. C.	7:00 am
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Retiro Q. C.	7:30 am
Sto. Domingo Church, Q. C.	5:45 am
Nuestra Señora de Gula, M. H. del Pilar St., Ermita, Manila	8:00 am
Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Makati	6:00 am
National Shrine of Sacred Heart, San Antonio Vil., Makati	6:00 am
	6:00 pm
National Shrine of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila	5:30 pm
Our Lady of the Pilar Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 am
Assumption Parish, Malate, Manila	6:00 am
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	6:00 pm
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila	6:30 am
Christ the King Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA	6:45 am
Dominos Farm Chapel, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA	5:30 pm

EDMAN FARILLAS

Died peacefully in the Grace of Our Lord on September 16, 2005 at the age of 23.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 10 South Wing, La Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 21, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at the Ever Memorial Gardens, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Donato B. Cobico, Sr.

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 18, 2005 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **Felisa**; children **Johannes, Jim, Joy**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Floresco Funeral Homes, A. Mabini St., Caloocan City.

Interment will be on Sept. 22 (Thursday) at Sto. Domingo Cemetery, Mexico Pampanga, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Floresco Funeral Homes Chapel in Caloocan City.

DEATH NOTICES

Reneu M. Ramirez
Died on Sept. 17, 2005
His body lies at his residence at Jardin Leonila Subd., Maahas, Los Baños, Laguna.
Details on interment will be announced later.

Roberto "Biboy" De Santos
Died in the grace of our Lord on September 16, 2005 at the age of 60.
Cremation will be today, September 20, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

Lourdes Reyes Dizon
Passed away on September 15, 2005 at the age of 93.
Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Cremation will be today, September 20 at 10 a.m.

In Loving Memory on His
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Rafael "Paeng" Sison Lomibao

who passed away unto eternal life on September 20, 2004.

Holy Masses will be offered on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at

Epiphany of Our Lord Parish (Lingayen, Pangasinan)	6:00 AM
St. John the Evangelist (Dagupan City, Pangasinan)	6:00 AM
Pink Sisters Convent (Baguio City)	6:00 AM
St. Peter's Parish (Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City)	6:00 AM
Good Shepherd Parish (Regalado Ave., Fairview, Quezon City)	6:00 AM

His wife **Aida**; children **Arlene & Mario, Arnel & Cecil, Agnes & David, Armida & Chester, Arnold, Araceli, Ma. Asuncion, Archimedes & Katlyn** and his grandchildren wish to thank all relatives and friends who have been praying for Paeng's peace in the garden of our Lord.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. III
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Procurement of Asian Utility Vehicles

1. The Commission on Audit (COA) Regional Office No. III intends to apply the sum of Four Million Pesos (P4,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of five (5) units of Asian Utility Vehicles for delivery within 10 calendar days from receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting September 14 to September 21, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Rowena R. Hanson, Administrative Services, COA Regional Office No. III, Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
3. The COA Regional Office No. III will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 1:30 P.M., September 22, 2005 at the 3rd Floor, Regional Training Center, COA Regional Office III Compound, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
4. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on October 4, 2005, 1:30 P.M. at the 3rd Floor, Regional Training Center, COA Regional Office III Compound, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the aforesaid address.
5. The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Contact Person:
Ms. Rowena R. Hanson, Head, BAC Secretariat
c/o Administrative Services, COA Regional Office No. III
Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga 2000
Telephone no.: (045) 963-6114 Telefax No.: (045) 961-5139
Email address: bac_ro3@yahoo.com website: coa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) FLAVIA S. BLEZA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(Sept. 14 & 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF RIZAL
Municipality of Morong
Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Morong Bids and Award Committee (BAC), is inviting qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

		Project Cost
Concreting of Portion Tantiongco St., Brgy. San Guillermo	P	245,000.00
Asphalt/Overlay of Inguito St., Brgy. San Guillermo	P	200,000.00
Construction of Covered Pathway at Taloga Elem. School, Brgy. Maybancal	P	200,000.00
Riprapping and Embankment of Natividad St., (Pulang Lupa), Brgy. Maybancal	P	220,000.00
Concreting of Tiburcio St., and Rehabilitation of Open Canal at F. San Miguel St., Brgy. Bombongan	P	220,000.00
Proposed Improvement of Soriano St., Brgy. CCL	P	220,000.00
Construction of JJB Type Waiting Shed at Paglabas, Brgy. San Pedro	P	94,900.00
Concreting of Pathway at Timoteo Reyes Memorial Elem. School, Brgy. San Pedro	P	95,000.00
Delivery of Drugs, Medicines, Office Supplies and Equipment	P	700,000.00
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	P	2,194,900.00

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
September 22, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr. Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer	September 26, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr. Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer	September 28, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr. Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer

That as of bidding date, September 29, 2005 10:00 AM, prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use for non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualifications of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Eligibility and documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P 500.00 in the form of Cash or Manager's check in favor of Municipality of Morong.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). Only applicants who paid bid fees shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and submit Bid proposals.

The Municipality of Morong thru the Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or part thereof, or waived any defect contained therein and may accept the offer which it deems the lowest calculated responsive bid.

(Sgd.) YOLANDA T. ALCANTARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 20 & 26, 2005)

National Power Corporation

September 14, 2005

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC BIDDING

The NPC-Employees & Welfare Fund (**NPC-ESWF**) invites buyers "**TO BID**" for the fl. property:

Property Name	NPC-Irisan Housing Project-Phase II
Location	Brgy. Irisan, Naguilian Road, Baguio City
Total Area in Squre meter	**78,616 sq. mtrs.**; subdivided (with titles issued by Baguio City Reg. Of Deeds) into 215 saleable lots and 18 lots Road lots, Alleys & Open spaces; Updated Realty Tax Payment
Description	Undeveloped/rawland property with sloping & rolling terrain;
HLURB Cert. of Reg. No.	CR-CAR-01-97-004
Zonal; Current Market Value	P1,700.00 / sq.mtr.; P3,000/sq. mtr.
Floor Price; Terms	**P550.00 / sq. mtr. ; Cash / NET**
Pre-Bid Conference / Site Inspection	October 13, 2005 – 9:00 A.M., Baguio City
Deadline for submission of Bids	October 20, 2005 – 5:00 P.M.
Opening of Bids	**October 21, 2005, 9:30 A.M.** NPC-ESWF Office

Bid documents can be secured on October 1-12, 2005, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at NPC-ESWF Office, 3rd Floor, NPC Bldg. I, corner Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 500.00

(Sgd.) EDMUND R. ANGULUAN
VP-HR / Admin / Finance &
Ex-Officio Chairman
Welfare Fund Board of Trustees

(PDI - Sept. 20, 22 & 25, 2005)

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BUSINESS

BIR belies bloated collections claim

By Cynthia D. Balana

OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue yesterday denied padding their collection figure for August by P1.4 billion to help the national government improve its budget surplus for last month.

In a press conference, BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the contested surplus did, in fact, occur based on statistics submitted by the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

"There was no overstatement of our August collection. We've been working so hard and exerting tremendous effort to exceed our target, but it looks like this effort is being undermined by certain sectors," Buñag said.

Asked who could be behind the smear campaign, Bunag quipped: "There are many critics of this government so this is one way of doing it."

The BIR chief said he had to come out in defense of his men who were deeply affected by negative reports.

Buñag explained that the BIR has several bases for its claim of exceeding its August goal by P3.323 billion, including the alleged overstatement.

He said the P1.4 billion excess was a product of Letter of Authority to determine BTr's liability for documentary stamp taxes (DST) on government securities.

Investigation showed that the BTr had been underpaying DST on its government securities, paying only 30 centavos for every P200 transaction when Republic Act No. 9243 sets the correct amount at P1 for every P200.

Buñag likewise said that some payments made by the BTr were in the form of journal entry vouchers, like the 20-percent final withholding tax on yields, bonds and bills. BIR believes that these should be included in collating the total amount of August collection.

Hike in prices of rice on hold

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY HAS postponed a planned P1 per kilo increase in the retail price of milled rice, which was supposed to reduce the agency's losses this year.

The NFA decision was made upon instruction of President Macapagal-Arroyo during a meeting with Cabinet officials last Sunday.

According to Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban, the NFA regular rice will still be sold at P16 per kilo, while well-milled rice will retail at P19.50 per kilo.

The decision was made to help consumers cope with the rising cost of living due to soaring fuel prices.

Postponing the price hike, however, will magnify the financial losses of the state-owned rice trading agency which is estimated to reach P8 billion by year-end. NFA is one of the money-losing government-owned and -controlled corporations ordered to trim its losses this year.

"The President decided to maintain prices for the sake of the consumers, but the agency will definitely be incurring more losses this year," NFA administrator Gregorio Tan Jr. told the INQUIRER.

The NFA council led by the Agriculture Department earlier proposed an increase in its retail prices by P1 per kilo for both well-milled and ordinary rice to curb the agency's financial losses by at least P1.5 billion yearly.

NFA will spend more for imported rice this year, with volume rising to 1.8 million metric tons compared to the 990,000 metric tons imported last year.

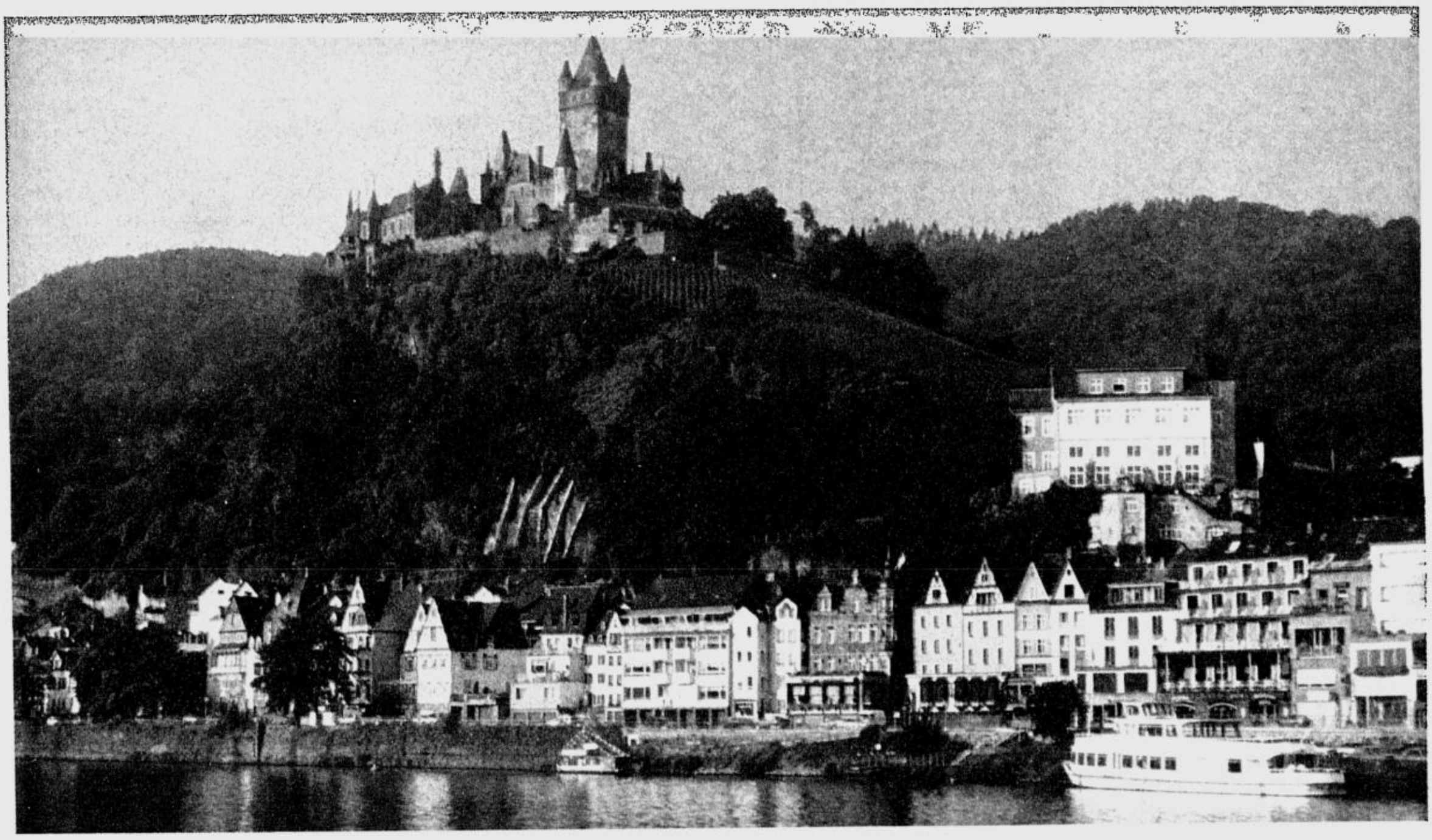
The agency has so far spent P28 billion this year—a 100-percent increase from the P14 billion spent during the same period last year—due to higher volume, the additional cost of the imported rice, and freight costs.

The average price in the international rice market stands between $320 to $350 per metric ton, held steady by the decision of leading exporters like China to keep additional rice supplies for their growing demand.

Tan said the agency decided to maintain a 90- to 120-day rice inventory buffer through higher imports on the back of weak local production.

Typhoons have cut the country's agricultural output, highlighting the need to import rice as early as January this year to prevent supply shortages caused by the delayed summer harvest.

SOMEDAY, YOU'LL WANT A ROOM WITH *THIS* VIEW.



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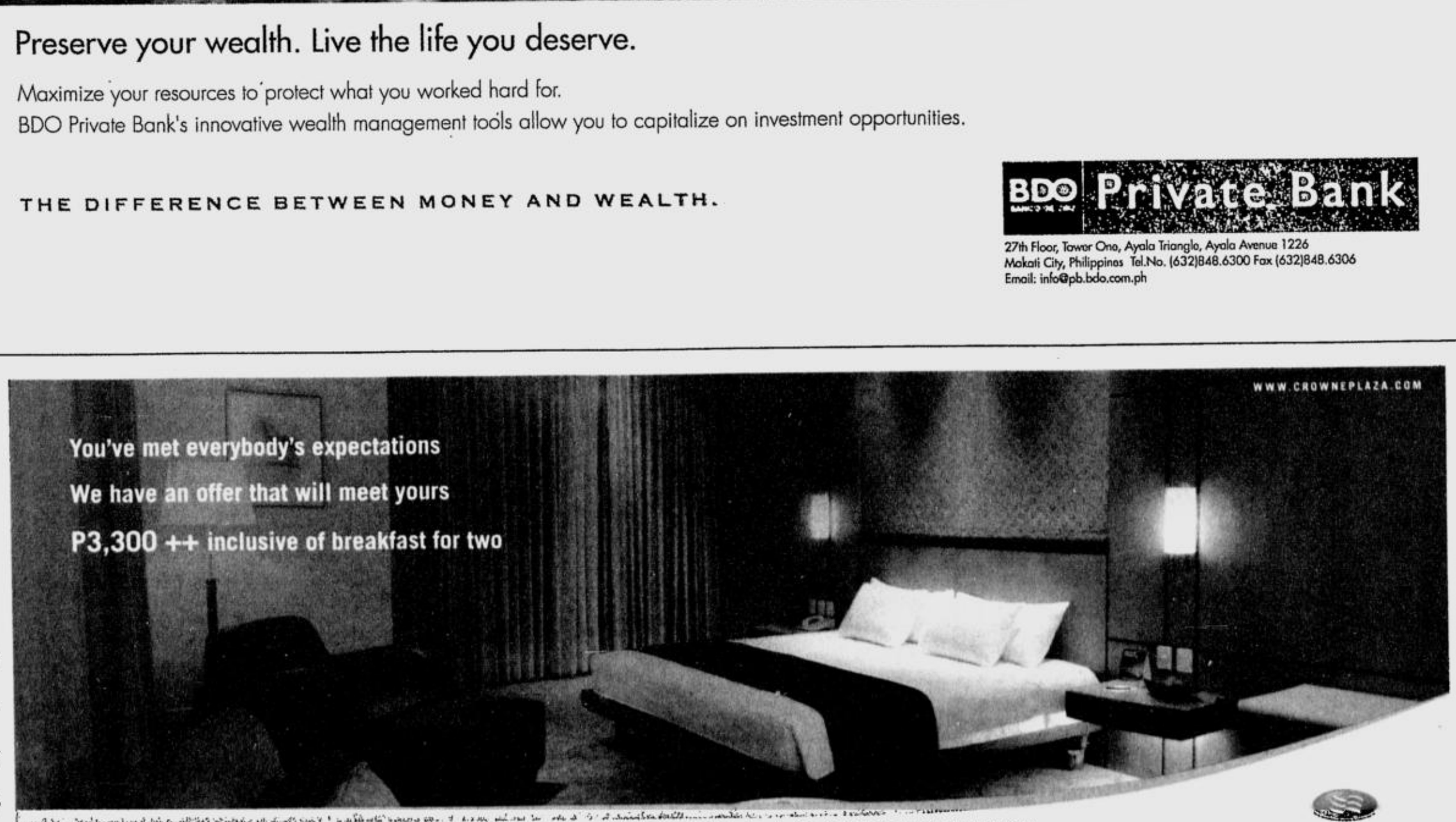

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Go light to feel right

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

MORE THAN A BASIC NEED, eating is also a social activity. And because the modern lifestyle includes convenience food, we tend to add to our grocery list prepacked foods, refined foods, fast foods, junk foods.

To make things worse, our meals can have a bit too much alcohol, rich creamy/oily food and lavish desserts compounded by late nights, lack of exercise, lack of rest and so on.

Saturation point

The human body can take a lot of abuse. But for how long? One day, the signs of abuse will show: rough/dull skin or pimply breakouts, pale complexion, exhaustion, weight gain, mouth ulcers.

If you choose to ignore the signs, you will most likely have more serious signals later on... gall/kidney stones, stomach ulcers, bloatedness, diabetes, heart problems, hypertension.

Time to lighten up:

You can lighten the load on your digestive system by eating lighter foods (*see chart at right*).

Typical situations

• Though you are with people who are not health conscious, you don't have to make excuses. Just announce to your friends in advance you will eat healthy. This should set the tone for your gathering.

You will find that this announcement alone is enough to influence people in a positive way. They will not order until you are done selecting. Then notice how "conscious" they will be about choosing something heavily sinful. When dining out, ask the waiter/waitress if they have healthy, heart-friendly items they can recommend. Avoid creamy dishes.

• When you suddenly get hungry, this is one time when fast foods are good like nuts, rice cakes, tuna *chicharon*, soy chips, apple or orange. You can nibble on any of these minus the guilt.

• Hungry while shopping is a no-no because you will grab the first thing you see. And most of the time it could be fattening, greasy, salty or sweet.

Stop and have a cup of hot herbal tea or coffee or a fruit juice. If your friends are having cake, ask for salad or fresh fruit. Do not do the grocery shopping while hungry. You will exceed your budget by buying extra food stuff you do not need.

Fasting made easy

Doctors will agree that most people tend to

> If you ignore signs of bodily abuse, you will most likely have more serious problems

eat too much. Thus, it is advisable to give your digestive system a rest. Before embarking on a fast, take note of the restrictions if you are: pregnant, breastfeeding, have a heart condition or health problems like diabetes, taking prescription drugs and uncertain about your health.

Mini fast:

A "break" of 18 hours is good for internal cleansing. Begin in the evening: 6 p.m.—eat a light vegetarian meal, drink plenty of herbal tea, water and fresh juices (minus sugar); 3 p.m.—have a light salad, brown rice and fresh fruit; 6 p.m.—have a meal of fruits and vegetables.

Mini-mini fast:

This short fast can be easily done once a week. It should feel like a short fast because it's also done overnight: 6 p.m.—begin with a light vegetarian meal; 8 a.m.—drink lots of water, herbal teas (like mint, chamomile... etc.) fresh coconut water; 3 p.m.—have a salad, fresh fruit and brown rice; 6 p.m.—dine on fresh fruits and vegetables.

By fasting or just simply going light you get radiant skin, lightness of feeling, energy, a more relaxed state of mind, a more positive disposition.

Affirmation

Close your eyes, imagine yourself looking slimmer, younger and stronger. Repeat with feeling: "I am in my best forever."

Love and light!

Reference: "Detox Yourself" by Jane Scrivner

INSTEAD OF	TRY
steak/ red meat	chicken or fish
white bread	whole grain bread
cakes/ pastries	fresh fruit/ dried fruit/ fruit salad
chocolates, alcoholic beverages	fresh juices/ canned, unsweetened
black coffee	decaf or herbal teas
potato chips	rice cakes/ coconut-camote chips/ nuts

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

What treatment options are available for liver cancer patients ?

Take Charge Doc!

The treatment modality for Primary liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma or HCC) is dictated by the potential resectability of the tumor. Surgical resection has been considered the best treatment to result in long term survival but the proportion of patients eligible for surgical resection is less than 10%. Ethanol injection into HCC is the most widely used therapy worldwide. Intraarterial chemoembolization (IACE) employs the use of intrarterial chemotherapy with iodized oil followed by arterial embolization. It is recommended for less extensive disease and better liver function. Recently, radiofrequency (RF) ablation has gained wider acceptance for the local treatment of unresectable HCC because of good therapeutic results and safety. RF ablation is a technique that uses heat to thermally ablate tumors. The use of this technique is limited in treating large or central perivascular tumors. Liver transplantation has shown excellent results for the treatment of HCC lately. It is the treatment of choice for small unresectable HCC with preserved liver function. Drawback in this treatment include donor organ shortage, high perioperative morbidity and mortality and cost.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our five-year medical service provider from Specialist Group Hospital & Trauma Center Dr. Rosario Valenzuela Pitargue. Doc Chato specializes in IM-Oncology and has been in practice for eight years now. She earned her medical degree from Far Eastern University in 1989, followed by her residency training for Internal Medicine from Veterans Memorial Hospital and later had her subspecialization training in Oncology from the same hospital in 1996. Dr Pitargue is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Society of Medical Oncology and the Philippine Society of Oncologists and she is also affiliated with Philippine Medical Association and Pangasinan Medical Society. MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Specialist Group Hospital & Trauma Center, Mondays to Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

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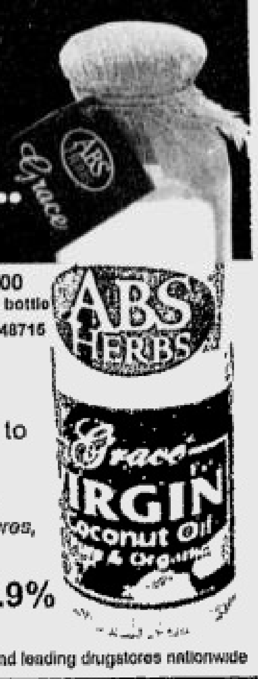

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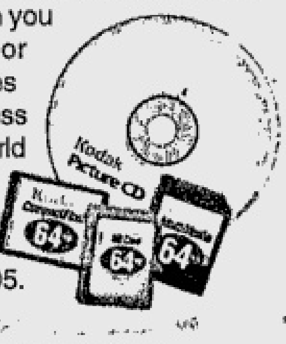

Promo period is from September 20 - October 17, 2005.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 5453, Series of 2005.

NEW steady twosome: Shu Uemura's talented makeup artist Xeng Zulueta and young DJ Jon Naval

SAL Harvey and Dara Cadness

SUPER pals Tina Tinio and Marco Antonio

DESIGNERS who party hard: Juliet and Mimi Tan

TEAM Bigfish super hot first ladies, Josa Primero and Pixie Cheah

"IT" gals Astrud Crisologo and Celine Lopez

THE BIG THREE: Malaysia's hottest DJ Johnboy Lee, with the legendary DJ Tall Paul and Team Big Fish main mover and shaker Domini Primero

ATTRACTIVE MTV VJ Claire Olivar

WAYNE Favell, Avi Siwa and Tony Matthews

YOUNG businessmen Tyrone Ong, JP Bautista and DJ Sanchez

Global Dance 2005 draws thousands

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

WE CAN ONLY DESCRIBE Godskitchen Global Dance 2005 as the most spectacular, awesome dance event our town has ever experienced, dahlings.

The fab Team Big Fish, with The God Squad from Godskitchen, powered by Addict Mobile and Motorola, transformed the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) into an amazing world-class super dance club for the old and hip new breeds of beautiful clubbers.

Living legend DJ **Tall Paul** played an awesome set of his signature sound, uplifting house music, to which the 4,000 plus partyphiles danced till 4 a.m. (*moi* made my exit at 3 a.m.). DJ **Johnboy Lee** from Malaysia, a DJ/producer friend of the late DJ TC, did a marv job opening and closing the event.

Seen at the elevated exclusive VIP area designed by **Mike Ong** of Team Big Fish were Addict Mobile's **Jon-Jon San Agustin** and **Nina Gomez**, Motorola's **Mari Litonjua** and Ogilvy's **Gabby Katigbak**.

Also spotted were honeymooners **JP** and **Hilary Bautista**, **Jeremy Chua**, with First Activate's **Ricky Daker**, and talented designer **Rhett Eala**.

Rocking the dance floor and shaking to the wicked mix of DJ Tall Paul while appreciating the mesmerizing visuals of **Abe Pilande** of Team Big Fish were Manille's top senior DJ, **Manolet Dario**, with his (again) girlfriend sultry **Rachelle Lobangco**.

The hard-to-beat Team Big Fish was led by the hardworking main man himself, **Domini Primero**, with the full support of the team's dedicated first ladies, vivacious **Pixie Cheah** and former beauty queen eye-catching **Josa Primero**; the workaholic production crew plus tons of loyal followers and trusting sponsors that always make things happen, *n'est-ce pas*? In the DJs booth, keeping the 6'7" DJ company was Godskitchen World Tour manager, **Paul Hugo**.

According to him, "It gets better every year, and never fails to take Manila clubbing to the next level!"

Addict Mobile and Team Big Fish also held Hed Kandi Disco Heaven Sept. 17. Its next big gig is the hot Cream Halloween Ball on Oct. 31 also at the PTTC. Check it out, *palanggas*.

Welcome

Citigroup hosted a fab affair to welcome its newest *famille* member, Citigroup Savings Inc.

Held at the horsy set's favorite stable, the Manila Polo Club, the event was a triumphant gathering of hotshot representatives of Citibank, the country's largest foreign bank; and Insular Life, the country's first and largest Filipino-owned life insurance company, *palanggas*.

Citibank Savings Inc. is the old Insular Savings Bank formerly owned by Insular Life and now acquired by Citibank.

Hotshots from the two partners—Asia-Pacific director for strategic technical operations and special projects **Nanoo Pamnani**, country corporate officer **James Hunt** and country business manager for global consumer group, brilliant **Nina Aguas**—led Citibank officials. Insular Life was represented by its chair, gentlemen for all seasons **Vicente Ayllon**, and president **Mayo Ongsingo**.

According to N. Pamnani, "The Philippines is a most important franchise for us. The acquisition of Insular Savings Bank therefore fits like a glove in our Asia growth plan."

Nina A. added, "This transaction is about growth, and a wider range of products, as well as the brand of customer service Citibank is known for worldwide."

Raymond Choong, former Citibank retail business director, heads the new Citibank Savings Inc. as president.

Après the speeches, Hunt asked the invitees to "raise a toast to this successful acquisition."

The fun part was when invitees formed a circle in the room. When lights were dimmed, they lifted a long glowing cable—"the cord of unification symbolizing the partnership between Citibank and Insular Life." Cool.

After the superbly prepared dinner and flowing booze, and high on the success of the evening, everyone let their hair down on the dance floor. The bank pack rocked to the upbeat ska-jazz music of Brass Munkeys, with the energetic **Sandra Viray** on vocals.

Now, that's partying banking style, dahlings.

Postponed, not canceled

Zooming into town from Athens, Greece, is bride-to-be ballroom diva **Becky Garcia**. I had to call her first thing to get it "straight from the horse's mouth"—when the Greek wedding would take place, after *moi* heard whispers it was postponed (some bitchy tongues even said "canceled").

Well Becky gave me a blow-by-blow account of her Mediterranean trip. Her fiancé, Dr. **George Sarakinis**, met her at the Athens Airport.

Reason for the postponement was the sudden death of his aunt, to whom he was very close. She was organizing the wedding of her favorite nephew. Having only one daughter, George was like a son to her.

It would have been a beautiful wedding set for September. Now they have scheduled it for next May, *palanggas*. In Greek tradition, they have to mourn for one year, depending on the closeness of the family. They had to respect this. Hey, *palanggas*, now you know.

While Becky was in Athens, she made all the major arrangements—booked the church, talked to the officiating Greek Orthodox patriarch, visited the Greek Tavern where the reception will be held and even had a food tasting. She also checked out several hotels where her invitees from overseas would be booked—pals from the Philippines, Europe and the United States.

The highlight of her trip was ordering her wedding gown from a European designer, five figures in Euro, but George wanted it to be a secret first. It was a choice between a French or a Spanish designer. She will be back in Athens in January for the first fitting.

World-class designer **Monique Lhuillier** will do her gown for the December wedding here in Cosmo Manille, dahlings.

KINA Santillan, Victoria Cruz, Alex Angara, Cesca Ayala and Carissa Buendia

ADDICT Mobile's Jonjon San Agustin and Therence Concepcion

BECKY Garcia and her prince charming, Dr. George Sarakinis, in Athens, Greece

CITIBANK Asia Pacific director for strategic technical operations and special projects Nanoo Pamnani, Citibank country compliance officer Francis Cuyegkeng and Citibank CFO Agustin Davalos

CITIBANK Savings' hot new president Raymond Choong

ENRIQUE Herbosa and Citibank Retail Branch Banking director Aileen Litonjua

CITIBANK's Mike Praxedes, Au Cacanando and Benjie Oliva

INSULAR Life president Mayo Ongsingco, Citibank Global Consumer Group country business manager Nina Aguas, Insular Life chair Vicente "Ting" Ayllon

CITIBANK'S Alice Cordero, Nini Escuadro and Florian Pascasio, with Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Philippines Inc. director Teng Alday, and Citibank human resources' Alma Horn

JEFF Choa, Noy Ibasco, Cecille Fonacier and Sonny Suñaz

WOMEN of stature: Christine Lopez, Helen Abdon, Susan Figueras, Marietta Gorrez and Aileen Beltrano

Tremendous powers are locked in human brains

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

DR. WILLIAM JAMES, considered the father of modern psychology, pointed out that "the average human being uses only 10 percent of his mental capacity."

He was probably being generous when he said that because, for me, the average human being used only 1 percent of his mental capacity. The human mind knows no limits aside from those it accepts.

If highly advanced and intelligent creatures from outer space were to report on their observation of human beings on Planet Earth over a period of thousands of years, they would most likely say, "You earthlings are shortchanging yourselves. You have tremendous powers locked inside your brains, but you are not using them. You allow these powers to be idle and go to waste."

Throughout the long history of humans, we find individuals with almost superhuman powers. Thus, they were even regarded as gods. We now think of them as existing only in myths, that they are not real persons.

But this is only because we have put limitations on what the human mind is capable of doing. I have a strong suspicion the stories of such beings are based on real people who actually lived in some distant past.

First humans

In the Christian Bible, the story is told of the first human beings, Adam and Eve. Endowed by God with supernatural powers, they lived in an ideal and beautiful place called Eden or Paradise. However, because they disobeyed God, as the story goes, they were driven out of Eden and stripped of their supernatural powers.

Apparently some people have regained or developed such powers.

For example, Uri Geller, a former Israeli paratrooper and entertainer, can bend metal spoons, coins and keys with his mind through telekinesis. He is also able to accelerate the biological process and make radish seeds sprout within minutes using only his mind. I saw him do this in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1994.

An Austrian psychic can see the internal injury of a person and diagnose illness accurately by merely looking at the subject with his naked eyes without using any instruments. A year ago I met a 12-year-old Filipino from the Bicol Region who could see objects behind a wooden wall. Only recently, he was able to make a mobile phone SIM (subscriber identity module) card that he wanted so much appear in his hand.

Our Filipino surgeons can open up the human body with their bare hands, take out diseased tissues, tumors, and close the incision without a trace of the wound at all. Most of the time, there is no real opening. They are able to materialize internal diseased tissues outside the body.

A 70-year-old female Korean shaman can walk barefooted on two razor sharp bolo blades while in a trance without getting hurt and to diagnose illness and tell the fortune of specific persons in the audience.

I witnessed this myself in Korea during an Asian Traditional Arts Festival where I was one of several international resource speakers.

Why only a few

I can go on and on enumerating extraordinary powers displayed by certain individuals in many parts of the world. The question is how come only a few possess such tremendous powers?

I believe the answer is that most people do not bother to develop them. In the first place, very few believe such powers even exist. The greater portion of the human population, according to one mystic, is asleep. Another said they were in a state of deep hypnosis. We have been hypnotized to believe we cannot do these extraordinary things.

People erroneously attributed such powers only to God. No human being should attempt to develop or possess them or they would be usurping God's powers. This mentality created so much limitation in us. We accepted such views without really determining their validity.

But one man astounded the whole world by performing deeds no ordinary human being had done before. He healed all sorts of illness, predicted the future with uncanny accuracy, read peoples minds, changed water into wine, raised the dead, walked on water and even raised himself from the dead.

And yet, that man, which all Christians consider to be God, Jesus Christ himself, said in John 14:12: "The works I have done you can do, and much more than these."

And when he tried to open up the minds of people to this awesome reality, they killed him.

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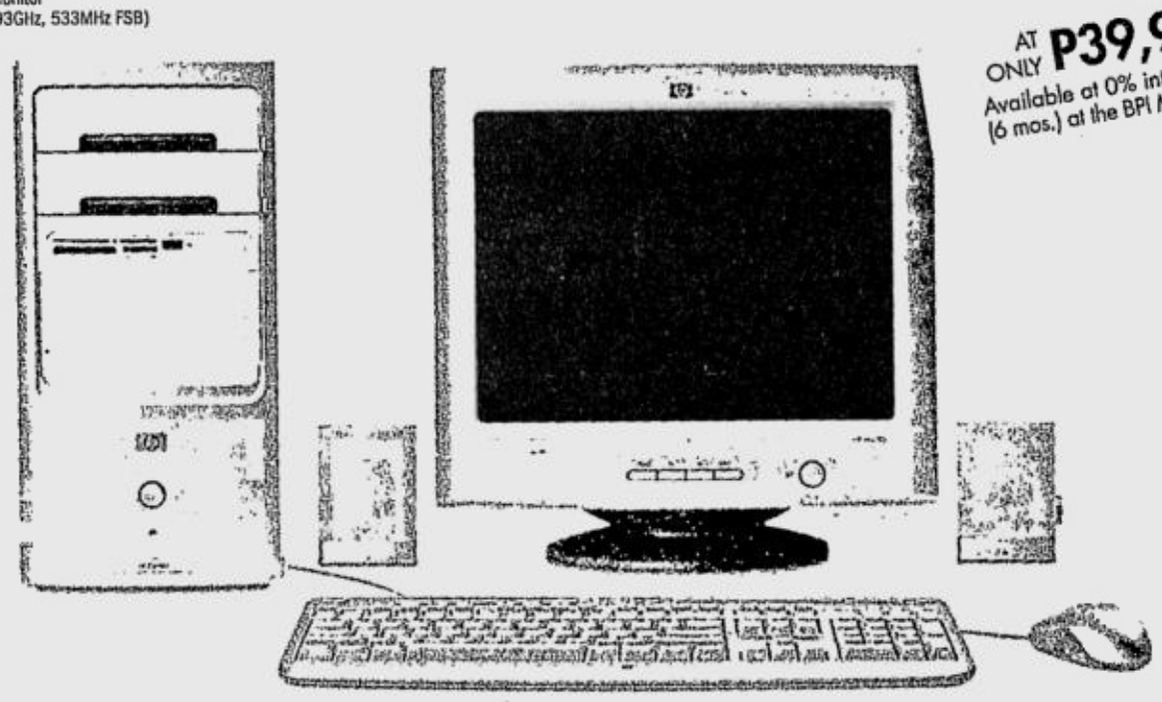

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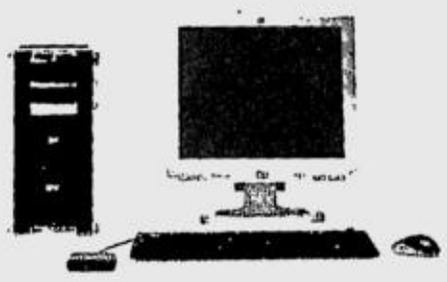

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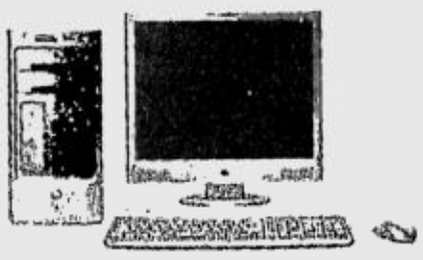

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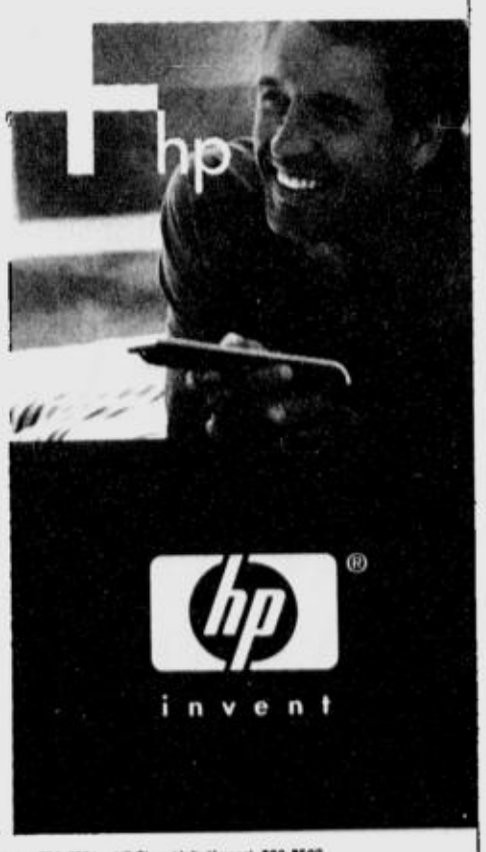

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Promo runs from Sept. 10-23, 2005
Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI-817, Series of 2005.

Conference on aging Oct. 14-15

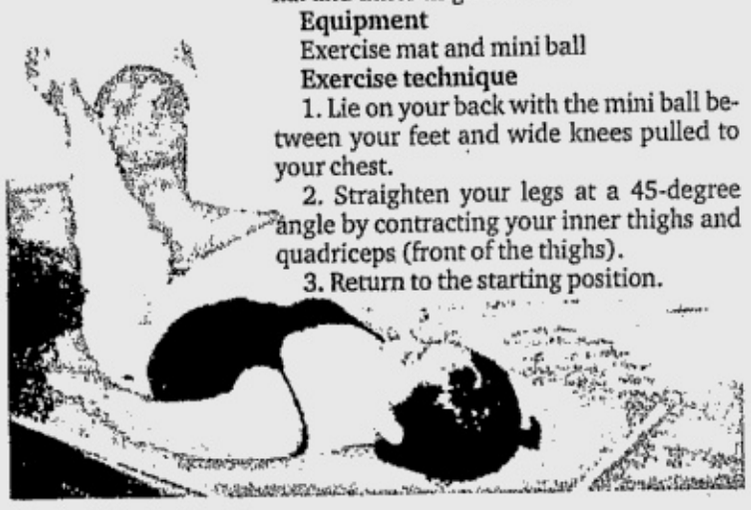
THE GOLDEN CENTER OF CEBU INC. (GCCI) will hold its 1st Annual Convention on Gerontology and Geriatrics on Oct. 14-15 at the Sacred Heart Center, Jakosalem Street, Cebu City.

Theme of the convention is "The Joy of Approaching the Golden Years with Grace and Dignity." Topics will include: Hypertension in Older Persons, Sexuality in Older Persons, Demographic Profile of the Aging Population, The Process of Aging, The Psychology of Aging, Elderly Abuse, Nutrition for Older Persons, Critical Nutrition among Elderly, Alzheimer's Disease, Hearing Loss in the Elderly, Sexuality in Older Persons, Is There Life After 50?, Osteoporosis, and Death and Dying.

This event is open to everybody who wants to know more about aging, growing old gracefully, understanding life and living. Call (032) 4124714, (032) 2533376, 0920-9799800, or 0917-4935264.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Frog kick with mini ball



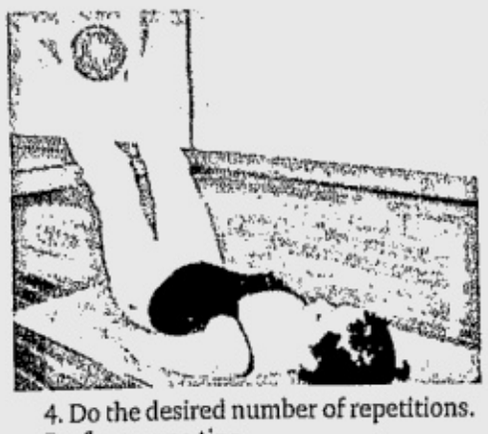
TIGHTENS AND TONES THE ABDOMINAL and inner thigh muscles

Equipment

Exercise mat and mini ball

Exercise technique

1. Lie on your back with the mini ball between your feet and wide knees pulled to your chest.
2. Straighten your legs at a 45-degree angle by contracting your inner thighs and quadriceps (front of the thighs).
3. Return to the starting position.



4. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips

1. Inhale when you bend your knees; exhale when you straighten your legs.
2. Keep your core and abdominal muscles tight to stabilize your spine against the mat when your legs are straightened out at a 45-degree angle.
3. Beginner option: Straighten legs to the ceiling.

Repetitions

Do ten repetitions.

Attitude can derail weight loss plan

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

THE FIVE COMPONENTS OF LIFEtime weight control are lifestyle, exercise, attitudes, relationships and nutrition.

This is according to the Learn Program, the most successful and most thoroughly tested lifestyle change program for weight management.

Kelly Brownell, Yale University obesity research expert and creator of the Learn Program, says thoughts and feelings can spell the difference between success and failure in permanently controlling your weight.

He says there are four inter-related attitude traps to watch out for: perfectionist thinking, light-bulb thinking, imperative thinking, and impossible-dream thinking.

Perfectionist thinking

Brownell says it is human nature to want to be perfect. But we learn to control this desire because we find out from experience we can never achieve perfection and we will only be disappointed if we become obsessed with it.

But Brownell discovered that many people went on a weight-loss program unrealistically expecting to never make mistakes or encounter difficulties. They are emotionally crushed when they do.

For example, he says perfectionist thinking makes people expect to lose weight every week. The reality is that some weeks their weight will remain stable or even go up a bit. This leads to negative feelings of discouragement and self-blame.

It is much better to expect to lose weight some weeks and to feel good about the hard work even on weeks when the scale does not budge.

Light-bulb thinking

A light bulb is either switched on or switched off. There is no in-between. The same is true for people with light bulb or dichotomous thinking. This is also called the "all or nothing" attitude.

Brownell notes that light-bulb thinking is the classic attitude of people on weight loss programs. He sees it in nearly every client he works with. "It involves viewing the world and losing weight as either right or wrong, perfect or terrible, good or bad."

He cites a person who, for six straight days, sticks to his/her diet and has a piece of cake on the seventh day. Light bulb thinking makes this person believe, "I really blew it now. I am off my program."

The guilt and depression at having been "bad" leads to more eating to ease the negative feelings, according to Brownell.

To counter light-bulb thinking, he suggests talking back to yourself to point out how illogical it is to feel terrible about one slip. Mistakes are inevitable and should be seen as a chance to learn rather than to feel like a complete failure.

Imperative thinking

Imperatives are words like "never, always, and must." Brownell says the vocabulary of people trying to lose weight is peppered with these imperatives. Examples from his many years as a weight loss counselor are: "I will eat a salad for lunch every day;" "Chocolate is my downfall so I will avoid it always;" "I will never eat more than 1,200 calories."

Brownell warns that people who feel they should never eat certain foods are especially likely to fall prey to imperative thinking. He says if you prevent yourself from eating peanuts, you will be fine for a week or two but then may start to crave and fantasize about peanuts.

When you break down and give in, feelings of failure can lead you to binge not just on peanuts but other types of "bad" food as well. At this point, some people give up trying to lose weight until the next diet comes around.

Instead of saying, "I will never eat candy bars," Brownell recommends saying to yourself, "I will do my best to eat fewer candy bars but, if I have one, it is a sign to increase my control, not to let down."

Instead of promising, "I will exercise every day," substitute, "This is my goal, and I will do my best to reach it. When I can't, I will try harder the next day."

Impossible dream thinking

"Impossible dreams" are extremely unrealistic goals or expectations. People may believe they can easily lose 50 pounds in two months or that losing weight will bring back an adulterous husband. Brownell says people are often not aware that they have impossible-dream thinking about their weight loss goals.

He cites the case of Audrey, one of his first overweight clients. She had been overweight since childhood and had never had a serious romantic relationship. Audrey would joke that, when she lost weight, she would meet the man of her dreams.

Apparently, she was serious because she became deeply depressed when she lost all her excess weight and still there was no romance on the horizon.

Brownell believes that, though it does no harm to hope for the best and aspire to improve your life through weight loss, you have to realize that losing weight may not change your life dramatically. He explains that impossible dream thinking can actually make weight loss disappointing if your fantasy is not fulfilled.

His advice? "Concern yourself with what you will do today and tomorrow, not what life will be like when you lose weight."

Note: The 3rd Philippine Parenting Convention will be held Oct. 1 at the Ateneo de Manila, Katipunan. Call 4354281 or 4340139. E-mail ppc_secretariat@yahoo.com or visit www.theparentingcompany.com.

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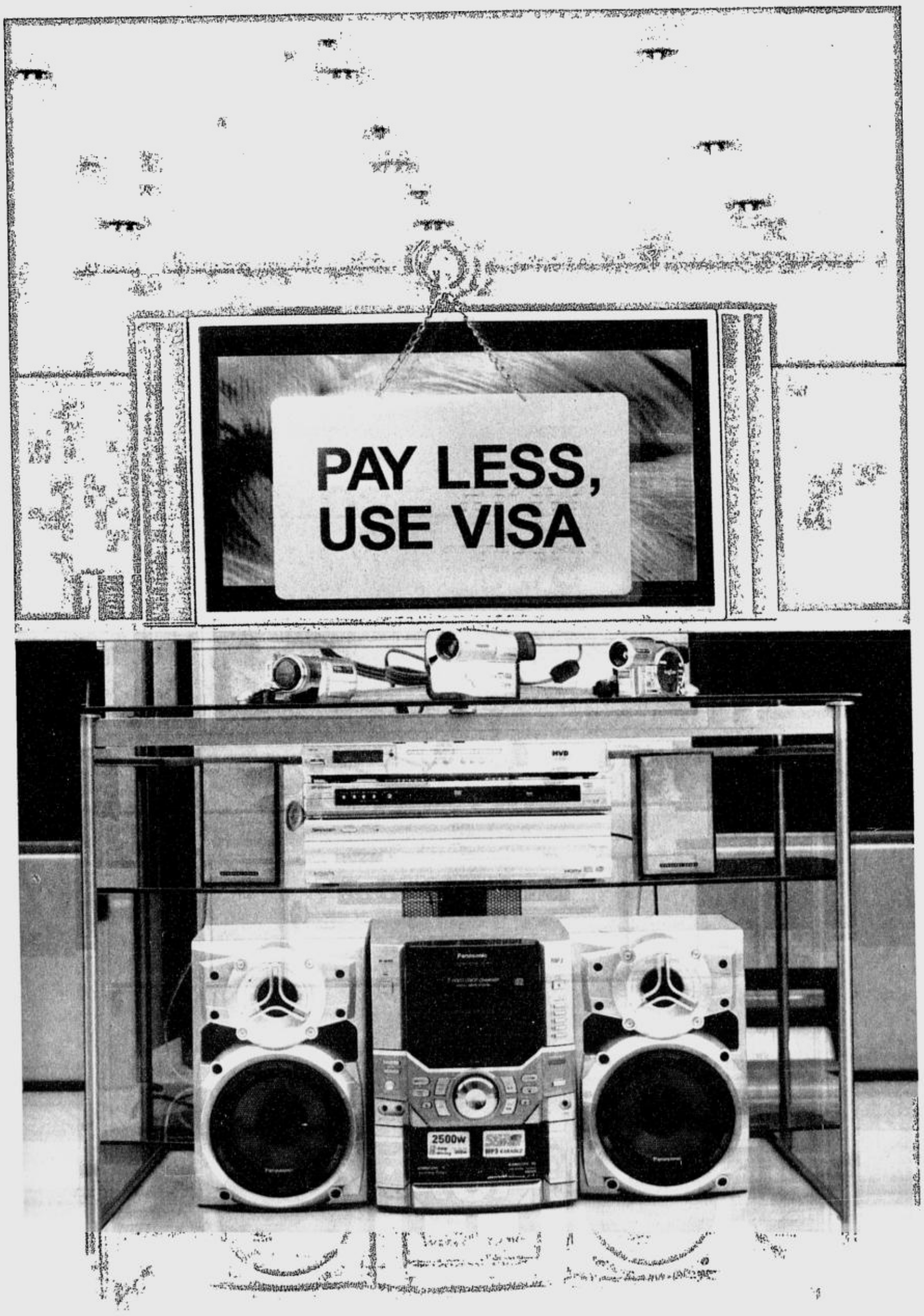

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